

Charles Duckett, farmer

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

This Charles Duckett was the cousin of Charles Duckett who ran the King William beerhouse in Settle. He was baptised on Christmas Day 1784, in Horton-in Ribblesdale, son of Charles Duckett, a farmer and Agnes Windle from Arncliffe.

Son Charles continued to work the farm when his father died. In the 1803 muster roll used for preparations for the Napoleonic wars, Charles was listed as a 'farmer under the age of 30 with no children' so would have been one of the first to be called up if required. Electoral records show that between 1810 and 1818 Charles rented property and land from William Dawson who owned the Folly, Langcliffe Hall, Marshfield and land in and around Settle. In those days the Folly was a farm with a very large amount of associated land.

In 1818 'Settle Hall Farm' (the Folly), in the occupation of Charles Duckett, became available to let [1]. It had 449 acres attached to the property and Charles rented a further 84 acres of pasture land. This amount of land would typically have needed 5 – 10 labourers to work it, so was no small venture. This was the highest valued property in Settle land tax records at the time. Charles was 35 at this time and was doing well...

William Lodge Paley was a schoolmaster at the national school in Giggleswick and a diarist [WLP] According to his diaries, on April 18 1821, Charles 'late of Folly has cut his own throat having betrayed M Kayley's daughter, and can't bear the reproach. Oh how weak is man.' Oh dear Charles.

Charles had got Nancy Kaley/Caly pregnant. She was the only daughter of George Kaley and Mary (Cockshott) Kaley. George had died in 1814. Nancy gave birth to a daughter Mary Ann in August 1821 in Long Preston. Charles was 38 and Nancy 24 but from opposite ends of the social scale and so perhaps Charles felt he couldn't marry her. William Lodge Paley summarised the events by saying 'Oh how weak is man!'

Nancy died, unmarried, in 1832 aged 35, in Long Preston. In 1849 daughter Mary Ann married the wonderfully named Craven Langstroth, a shoemaker and they lived in Malham with their family of five children. Nancy was from a family of labourers although brother Farrand Kayley

TO BE LET,
At the House of Mr. Fothergill, the Golden Lion, in Settle, in the County of York, on Monday, the 28th Day of September, 1818, at Five o'Clock in the Afternoon, and subject to such Conditions as will be then and there produced; (unless Let in the mean Time by Private Agreement, of which due Notice will be given.)

THE following F A R M S, situate within the Townships of Settle and Langcliffe aforesaid, belonging to WILLIAM DAWSON, Esq; (that is to say) within Settle.

All that extensive and very desirable Grazing FARM, called *Settle Hall Farm*, consisting of an excellent Dwelling House, in the Town of Settle, with suitable Outbuildings, and of several Closes of Meadow and Pasture Land, principally adjoining each other, and containing by Admeasurement, in Statute Measure, 449 Acres or thereabouts, now in the Occupation of Mr. Charles Duckett.

Also, all that Inclosure of PASTURE LAND, called *Scaleber*, otherwise *Harestones*, containing in like Measure, 84. 1a. 1r. or thereabouts, now also in the Occupation of the said Charles Duckett.

Also, the several CLOSES called *High Fearham*, *Low Fearham*, and *Mirrey Dale*, containing, in like Measure, 8a. 0a. 33r. or thereabouts, with a Barn, situate in Settle, now in the Occupation of Anthony Airton.

Also, all that MESSUAGE or DWELLING-HOUSE, situate in Settle, with the Outbuildings, and Appurtenances thereto belonging, and the Closes called *Eddlestone Bank*, and *Town End Close*, containing, in like Measure, 4a. 1a. 22r. or thereabouts, now in the Occupation of W. Harger.

will not be so lonely.—Was shocked to hear that Charles Duckett, late of Folly, has cut his throat, having betrayed M. Kayley's daughter, and can't bear the reproach. Oh how weak is man.

license. *The Black Horse Inn*: Farrand Kayley, the landlord of the Black Horse Inn, at Hellifield, also appeared for a renewal of his license. This case had been adjourned to receive the report of the police as to the general conduct of the house, complaints having been made against the landlord for allowing drunkenness in the house. The police now presented their report, and being favourable to the applicant, the license was granted. *The Talbot Inn*: The Ranah it will be

was the innkeeper at the Black Horse at Hellifield for decades. He had to tighten up on drunken behaviour in 1870 [2].

Farrand had married **Mary Ralph** and they had six children. In 1865 son **Job Cockshott Kayley** had a shocking fatal accident when he fell off a cart while returning from Settle market with his sisters [2]. Job was 29. This was not a lucky family. (James Whipp who helped Job was the grandfather of gamekeeper **Joseph Whipp**.) Innkeeper Farrand died suddenly of a heart attack, aged 77, 'discovered by a young man who had slept with him to be quite dead.' [4].

SETTLE.

Sudden Death.—In our obituary we record the sudden death of Mr. Farrand Kayley, late innkeeper at Hellifield. We understand the deceased was as well as usual on Tuesday evening, having chatted with some neighbours up to between eight and nine o'clock, when he retired to rest, and on Wednesday morning about six o'clock he was discovered by a young man who had slept with him to be quite dead. Heart disease was the cause of death.

What about Charles? He survived! Charles had already moved out of the Folly when the incident happened and life took a better turn. Almost exactly a year to the day after daughter Mary Ann was born, he married **Mary Hartley** in Leeds (did she know about Nancy Kayey?) and they had at six children although two died in infancy. The diaries of William Lodge Paley tell us that in 1825 Charles bought an expensive farm at Paley Green. A year later William went to have a chat with him about his time in the Folly [WLP]. It's a shame William didn't give details of the conversation!

By 1831 Charles and Mary had moved to farm at Mearbeck on the opposite side of Settle, towards Long Preston. The previous owner of Mearbeck, George Procter, had died and it was sold on. There was a modern farmhouse with a good barn, stable, shipping (cattle sheds) and other buildings and 92 acres of land. Pew number 11 in Giggleswick church was also in the sale [2]. Charles' mum Agnes died at Mearbeck in 1831 aged 83! and is buried in Giggleswick graveyard. Mary died at Mearbeck in 1833, aged 41, when their youngest child, William, was five.

In 1835 Charles married young **Ellen Haythornthwaite**, nearly thirty years his junior and she started on the production of four more children. In 1838 Charles took his family to Bentham

where he worked as the innkeeper of the Horse and Farrier [ph1]. However, things didn't go well.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—A most lamentable accident occurred on Tuesday evening last at the village of Long Preston to Mr. Job Kayley, son of Mr. Farrand Kayley, innkeeper, residing at Hellifield. It appears the deceased was returning from Settle market in a cart along with his sisters, and at the time the accident happened was driving and standing upright in the cart, with his head turned towards his sisters, and by some means he lost his equilibrium and fell backwards over the cart, alighting on his head, the wheel passing over his chest. The accident was witnessed by Mr. James Whipp, of Long Preston, who, along with the Rev. Mr. Spooner, lost no time in assisting the deceased, who was able to walk, to the house of Mr. Thomas Atkinson, where stimulants were administered, and the deceased entered into conversation for some short time. He gradually, however, became worse and was shortly afterwards put to bed at the Boar's Head Inn, at which place he died in a few hours, and before medical assistance could be obtained. The deceased was perfectly sober.—An inquest was held on Thursday last, before Thomas Brown, Esq., coroner, when the above facts were deposed to, and the Jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally killed by falling from a cart."

Oct. 6.—Robt. Holdens sale at Paley Green (a dear one). C. Duckett, late of the Folly, has taken it.

June 19.—Went to Rome to see if Mr. Henry Maudsley had either of the pews belonging to his farm at Armistead to lett, but find that Mr. Clayton lett them himself. Returned by Chas. Ducketts, Paley Green, who is willing to let his pew in the gallery and Mrs. Woods can see if she likes it next Sunday, and if so will take same as others. We talked of the time when he lived at the Folly in Settle.

HIGHLY VALUABLE and DESIRABLE
ESTATE at MEARBECK, near Settle, in Craven, in the County of York.—**TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION**, at the House of Mrs. Hartley, the Golden Lion Inn, in Settle aforesaid, on Monday the 15th Day of August next, at Six o'Clock in the Evening, either together or in the following or such other Lots as may be fixed upon at the Time of Sale, and subject to such Conditions as shall be there produced; all that Valuable **GRAZING** and **STOCK FARM**, situate at and near MEARBECK aforesaid, in the several Townships of Settle and Long Preston, in the County of York, late belonging to Mr. George Procter, deceased; consisting of a comfortable modern-built Farm-House, with a good Barn, Stable, Shippons, and other suitable and convenient Farm-Buildings, Gardens, and Appurtenances to the same belonging; and the several Closes, Inclosures, and Parcels of rich Meadow and Pasture **LAND**, now occupied therewith, containing together 92A. 2R. 14P. or thereabouts, now in the Tenure or Occupation of Mr. Charles Duckett, together with a **PEW**, No. 11, in the Parish Church of Giggleswick.

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In January 1842 Charles, aged 58, had had enough and the tenancy of the inn was advertised [3].



Worse was to follow. Just two months later Charles handed over his financial affairs to a druggist **Thomas Haythornthwaite** [3]. Thomas was wife Ellen's cousin who worked with his father Richard and brother William, also druggists. Thomas had an unfortunate death in 1848 after a short but very severe illness, aged 33.

At the time of the next census Charles was working as an agricultural labourer, living with Ellen, his younger children and his sister Ann (Redmayne) who worked as a dressmaker. It must have been dispiriting for a man who used to run the largest farm in the Settle area to work as an agricultural labourer.

Charles died in 1858, aged 75 and was probably buried in Bentham. Widow Ellen moved to Constitution Hill in Settle with youngest son Thomas, an apprentice stonemason, making a living as a stay maker (for corsets). In October 1861, Ellen moved out of her rental property on the south side of Constitution Hill along with JHO Wilson [SC]. **John Harrison Oddie Wilson** was a school teacher who worked at Rathmell School at the time of the census on 7 April 1861.

Just a month later on 25th November 1861, Ellen had a terrible accident when crossing the line at Settle (Giggleswick) station. In those days there was no bridge between platforms so passengers had to cross over the track. Ellen fell and broke her leg because it was dark, rainy and windy. She claimed the station lights were not illuminated and four witnesses supported her. The railway claimed the lights were on. In the end Ellen was awarded £25 damages [SC].

settleresear

TO BE LET BY PROPOSAL,
FOR A TERM OF YEARS, AND TO BE ENTERED UPON ON THE
12TH DAY OF MAY NEXT,
ALL that Well-Accustomed INN, known by the Sign
of the
HORSE & FARRIER,
Situate in the Market Town of Upper Bentham, in the West
Riding of the County of York, with the Barn, Stables, Out-
buildings, Garden and Croft, thereunto adjoining, containing,
in statute measure, 1A. 2R. SP., or thereabouts, and now in the
occupation of Mr. Charles Duckett as Tenant thereof.
Conditions and further particulars may be known by apply-
ing to Mr. FRANCIS BLACKBURN, or at the Office of Mr.
EASTHAM, Solicitor, Kirkby Lonsdale, and Proposals in Writing
will be received by them until Monday, the 31st day of January
instant, soon after which time the Taker will be declared.
Kirkby Lonsdale, Jan. 6. 1842.

**CHARLES DUCKETT'S
ASSIGNMENT.**
WHEREAS
CHARLES DUCKETT, of Bentham, in the County
of York, Innkeeper, hath, by Indenture bearing date the
1st day of March instant, Assigned all his personal Estate and
Effects unto THOMAS HAYTHORNTHWAITE, of Kirkby Lonsdale,
in the County of Westmorland, Druggist, for the equal benefit
of such of the Creditors of the said Charles Duckett as shall
execute the same within six weeks from the date thereof;
Notice is hereby given,
That the said Indenture is lodged at the Office of Mr. THOMAS
EASTHAM, Solicitor, Kirkby Lonsdale, for the execution of such
of the Creditors of the said Charles Duckett, as intend taking
the benefit thereof.
All Persons who have any demands against the said Charles
Duckett, are desired immediately to send in their Accounts to
the said T. EASTHAM, to whom all Persons who stand indebted
to the said Charles Duckett are requested to pay their respective
Accounts without delay.
Kirkby Lonsdale, March 1, 1842.

TO BE LET,
And entered upon on the 12th day of November next,
TWO DWELLING-HOUSES,
Pleasantly situated on the south side of Constitution Hill,
Settle, in the several occupations of Mr J H O Wilson and
Mrs Ellen Duckett. Also a Room, situate at the top of Con-
stitution Hill.
The respective tenants will show the premises, and for
further particulars apply to Mr E T Foster, Settle, the owner.
Settle, 1st October, 1861.

DUCKETT v. THE MIDLAND RAILWAY COMPANY. (SPECIAL JURY)

MR. OVEREND, Q.C., and Mr. JONES were for the plaintiff;
Mr. TEMPLE, Q.C., and Mr. KEMPLAY for the defendants.

In this case Mrs. Ellen Duckett was the plaintiff, a dress-
maker residing at Settle, and about fifty years of age. She
had frequently travelled on the Midland Railway, and on
Monday, the 25th of November last, she was at Skipton.
She arrived at Settle from Skipton at eight o'clock in the
evening. It was dark and rainy, and the wind was very
high. On getting out of the carriage on the arrival side of the
station, where there is no shed, room, or accommodation
whatever for the passengers, she went forward to where the
luggage had been placed, and there saw the porter, who said
he would carry her luggage across the line to the other side
of the station. She had also to cross the railway, and went
to the back of the train for that purpose. The year before
there had been a step to the platform, but the company had
removed it except a short distance of seven yards, and she,
not knowing the fact, and there being no lights, stepped down.
She fell from a height of two or three feet, with her leg across
the rail, and on attempting to get up she found she could not
do so. She was taken home, and medical assistance procured,

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However a year later, in August 1862, there was another court case about the accident. The witnesses who supported Ellen in her claims that the station lights were not illuminated were taken to court for perjury [4]. These included **Thomas Leeming**, watchmaker, **PC Lindsay** and John Harrison Oddie Wilson who had previously been Ellen's neighbour. It transpired that John Harrison Oddie Wilson was not even at the station at the time. Registrar and high bailiff **John Cowburn** had sent him away for the night to collect a bankruptcy notice. Joseph was imprisoned for 18 months with hard labour for perjury. The charges against Thomas Leeming and PC Lindsay were dropped. (Joseph had previously been declared bankrupt as a draper and later found guilty of obtaining money under false pretences, but he's another Old graveyard story!)

What about Ellen? By the time of this second court case, Ellen had taken her compensation and moved to Burnley where she worked in domestic service until she died, aged 61 in 1873.

What happened to Charles' children? Charles had 12 children including illegitimate Mary Ann Kaley. Four children died in infancy.

From his first marriage, daughter **Agnes** [ph2] became the second wife **William Atham** a respected apothecary and surgeon. They lived in a property behind the Shambles in Settle and Agnes had at least 12 children, although five died in infancy and childhood. Agnes and William are buried in the Quaker graveyard.

Charles and Mary's son **Charles** and daughter **Ellen** settled in Burton in Lonsdale. Ellen married shoemaker **Thomas Greenall**. Charles was a farmer whose first wife was **Alice Ayrton**, the daughter of **Thomas Ayrton**. Sons **John** and **William** lived in Birkenhead. John was a grocer and his second wife was **Jane Walker**, daughter of Settle tailor **Thomas Walker**. William spent his whole life as a railway police constable in the days when the railways employed their own policing force. In 1863 William was involved in convicting **John Rholes** who had stolen two fitches of bacon and two large cheeses [5].

Son Thomas from Charles' marriage to Ellen, who had been a mason's apprentice, died aged 32, in Settle.

and it was then discovered that her leg was broken. She was confined to her bed for seven weeks, suffering severely from the injury, and had been prevented attending to her business for a considerable period. It was alleged that the company had been guilty of carelessness and negligence in the management of the station and train, and evidence was given to show that when the attention of one of the porters and ticket collector was drawn to the circumstance of their being no lights, they said the wind was so high they could not be kept in.

Mr. KEMPLAY, in his address to the jury, said if they thought the accident was attributable in any degree to the plaintiff's own rashness, the defendants would not be liable in this action. He submitted that there were lights at the station at the time the accident occurred, and that the plaintiff had contributed to it by attempting to cross the railway at the time the train was in the station, and she must have known she was doing so at a considerable hazard.

Witnesses were called to prove that all the lamps were lighted when the train arrived, and they were not put out until after it had gone subsequent to the accident.

The jury retired for about an hour and a half, and then found a verdict for the plaintiff, damages £25.

SETTLE PETTY SESSIONS—SATURDAY, AUG. 23. (Before G. Stansfeld, Esq., chairman, and W. Robinson, Esq.)

PERJURY AT YORK ASSIZES.

Joseph Harrison Oddie Wilson, of Rathmell, was brought up in custody, and charged with having committed perjury on giving evidence in the trial of the case *Duckett v. the Midland Railway Company*, at the last York assizes. Thomas Leeming, of Settle, and William Lindsay, police constable, of Giggleswick, who were also witnesses in the same cause, appeared in answer to summonses charging them with the same offence.



BURGLARY AND EXTENSIVE ROBBERY.—John Rholes, a young man, a labourer, was charged with having, in company with two other young men not yet in custody, burglariously entered the warehouse of Mr. Thompson, provision dealer, Park-street, and stolen two fitches of bacon and two large cheeses. William Duckett, a railway policeman, residing at 121, Brook-street, said that at a quarter to five o'clock on the morning of the 6th instant he was standing in the yard of his house, when he saw the prisoner and two other men coming down an entry leading into Queensbury-street. They came within six yards of him, and



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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 – Leeds Intelligencer, 2 – Lancaster Gazette, 3 – Westmorland Gazette, 4 – Lancaster Guardian, 5 – Cheshire Observer

ph1 – photo with the kind permission of John Pearcy, ph2 – credited to the descendants of the family via ancestry.co.uk, username Julie Boynton

SC – Settle Chronicle, WLP – diaries of William Lodge Paley with the kind permission of the North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust