## The Bell family, joiners in the first grave of the Old graveyard

This was a good, hardworking family of tradesmen who populated the Upper Settle and Castle Hill areas of Settle for many years and several are buried in the graveyard. James Bell, a carpenter, and his wife Margaret Clark moved to Settle from Long Preston in the 1830s bringing the first two of six children with them. They died in their 60s and are buried back in Long Preston in an unmarked grave. Sons Stephen and Joseph continued their father's trade in Settle.

In 1858 eldest son Stephen married **Mary Hodgson**, the daughter of an 'omnibus driver' from Keswick. The Hodgson family had probably moved to Settle to find work. Mary died just seven years later, aged 35, two years after the birth of her second child, but there is no burial record for her locally. Stephen brought up the children alone, which must have been difficult while working as a joiner. Daughter **Annie** married a shoemaker **William Walker** from Cark near Cartmel and Stephen lived with them. When he was 23, Annie and William's son, **William John Walker**, emigrated to Canada on a steamship, arriving in Quebec on 23rd February 1909 but died in the Victoria Hospital of pneumonia on the 1st of March, just a week later. He was buried in Quebec. Ann died a year later, aged 49, closely followed by Stephen in 1912 and William Walker in 1917. They are buried in the unmarked *grave Old GX30*.

Stephen's son Thomas Bell, born in 1864, worked as a carter and general labourer. He lived in

Chapel Square, Castle Hill, Constitution Hill and even at the Folly in the early 1900s. Thomas had nine children with two wives. His first wife, **Martha Mary Briggs**, a weaver's daughter, died in Burnley in 1888 after giving birth to their second son John Edward Bell. Their first son Stephen Henry Bell, a quarryman, married Rose Ann Porter and their two infant sons, Thomas and Francis, were buried in the unmarked *Old GX35*, before they moved away to Barnoldswick. Second son John Edward didn't have much chance to marry. John Edward (Jack) first served with the East Lancashire Regiment but was transferred to the Canadian Infantry soon afterwards. Jack [*ph1*] had served in Canada for over three years but was killed in Poperinge, France on

14 June 1916 as part of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, aged 27.

Thomas then married **Mary Ann Hill** who had moved to Settle from Scotland. They had a son and six daughters. Mary Ann died in 1927, aged 63, and Thomas spent the rest of his life with three spinster daughters Ada, Nora and Gladys at Underwood at the bottom of Constitution Hill. Thomas and Mary Ann are buried in the kerbstone *Old grave L37*, together with an unmarried son **Arthur Christopher** 

**Bell.** There are no burial records for the spinster daughters – they were probably cremated.

In loving memory of Mary Ann beloved wife of Thomas Bell who died Dec 25<sup>th</sup> 1927 aged 60 years. Also of Thomas Bell died Feb 1<sup>st</sup> 1944 aged 80 years. Also of their son Arthur Christopher Bell died Dec 30<sup>th</sup> 1955 aged 60 years, Old L37

James and Margaret's third son Joseph was also a joiner based in Chapel Hill *[LSA]*, very close to the Zion Church. In later life he

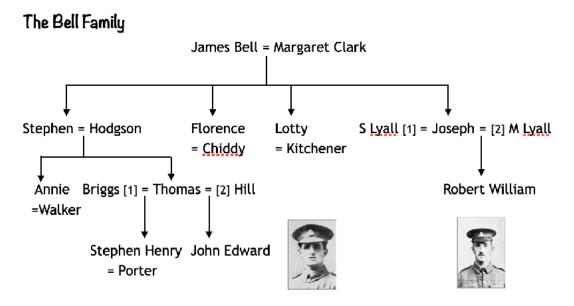
became an estate valuer. In 1898 he valued the 'Castleberg Leisure Grounds' at £15 12s and 6d. It contained a bowling green, sings and see saws, seven wooden hobby horses, a refreshment hut and plenty of chairs. At this point *John Taylor*, clogger on Castle Hill was selling the business to *Stephen Kitchener*. In 1902







Joseph bought a cottage with gig-house, stable and warehouse from the estate of James Twisleton, for £92.



In 1868 Joseph married **Sarah Lyall**, the daughter of **Andrew Lyall** who was one of the Scottish cattle drovers, making a living transporting livestock to and from the English markets. Malham Moor was on one of the old through routes. This was one of the occupations which ground to a halt by the introduction of railways. The chances are that Sarah came to Settle to find work in domestic service when she met Joseph. Sarah died aged just 24 at the birth of their third daughter, **Sarah Jane**, who also died soon after.

Undaunted, Joseph married Sarah's elder sister **Margaret Lyall**. It was not legal to marry the sister of your dead wife until 1907 but there are several examples in our town, as well as several sisters living as 'housekeepers' to their widowed brothers-in-law. Margaret and Joseph had another three sons and seven daughters — quite a houseful. Son **Arthur** died in infancy and **Janet** died aged six. They are buried with Sarah and Sarah Jane in the Zion churchyard in Settle.

In loving remembrance of Sarah, the beloved wife of Joseph Bell who died June 20th 1872 aged 24 years. Also of Sarah Jane beloved daughter of the above died Sept 2nd 1872 aged 4 months. Also of Arthur Bell the son of Joseph and Margaret Bell who died Oct 9th 1874 aged 14 months. Also of Janet daughter of the above who died March 28th 1884 aged 6 years.

Joseph and Margaret named one of their daughters **Sarah Jane**, but she died aged 20, as did Sarah's daughter **Amy**. A further daughter **Florence Elizabeth** died in infancy and they are buried together in the unmarked *Old grave AX49*. Their daughter **Jessie** married **George Graham** from Ilkley but died soon after in 1908, presumably related to childbirth.

So by the 1911 census, Joseph had fathered 13 children but seven had died in infancy or childhood. Further tragedy followed as youngest son **Robert William** followed the same path as his cousin 1x removed, John Edward Bell. Private Robert William Bell joined 'Tunstill's Men' in the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment in September 1914 and never had any leave before he was killed in action on the Western Front on 5 October 1916 aged 30 [ph1]. He worked as a joiner with his dad before he enlisted and, in a moment of passion in 1911 fathered a son, **Wilfred Reginald Charlesworth**, with a local





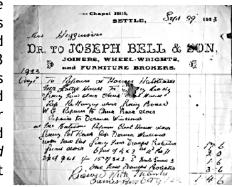
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## Settle Graveyard Project

barmaid Myra Charlesworth from Staffordshire. In 1915 Myra had another illegitimate son, **Malcolm Ball Charlesworth** with *James Henry Ball* who was married and ran a lodging house in Upper Settle. Myra may have lived at the lodging house? After Malcolm was born Myra moved away to Barnsley. Malcolm was adopted by James Henry Ball and his understanding wife and had a career at the quarries. Wilfred was adopted by widow **Clarissa (Cox) Bradley** and became a farm bailiff at Hornby Castle.

Joseph Bell died soon afterwards in 1917, aged 69, and is buried in the unmarked *grave AX47* with daughter Jessie (Bell) Graham. The grave is also occupied by Henry Edward Henry, the 5 month old nephew of navvy *Samuel Henry* buried in the *Ancient graveyard E1*. Henry was buried in November 1885 and was the very first burial in the Old graveyard.

Widow Margaret died, aged 80, in 1926 and is buried in the unmarked *Old grave HX55* with their son **James Bell** who was 86 when he died. James was another joiner and continued trading under the name '*Joseph Bell & Son'* [*ph2*], In 1923 James did some repairs to some houses at Halsteads for Mrs Higginson who was presumably the owner. had married Catherine from an unrelated *Graham* family. One of their sons, **Noel Bell**, presumably born on Christmas day, died aged just 2 days and is buried with grandad Joseph in *Old AX47*. James and Catherine moved to Knaresborough but James was brought back for burial with his mum.



Joseph and Margaret's youngest daughter Lotty married Charles Kitchener, the son of gardener *Stephen Kitchener* who ran the Castleberg Leisure Ground. At the time of the 1939 pre-war register Lotty and Charles were living in 'Westmorland' and Charles worked as a 'kennel hunstman'. Daughter Florence married James Chiddey whose father, William, had moved to Giggleswick from Bristol for work on the railway. James signed up to the police force in February 1906, aged 25. In his application he said he had previously worked for mill owner H L Christie in Canada, who could be related to Hector Christie, the Langcliffe Mill owner. James

was rapidly promoted and won Good Conduct Class and Commendations for his work. One award was 'At a fire at Luddenden' at Mr Clay's Delph Mill in 1911 — the fire was quenched before it got a good hold and more damage was done by the water than by the fire [1]. Another was for 'intelligence displayed in the arrest of William Marsden for office breaking.' James served in Rotherham, Halifax and Todmorden.

> FIRE AT LUDDENDEN FOOT. There was a slight outbreak of fire early yesterday morning at Mesars. Clay's Delph Mill, Luddenden Foot. The local brigade were called to quench the flames. The outbreak, which occurred in the dule room, was fortunately detected, before it had got a good hold. In fact, more damage was done by water than by fire.

There are several newspaper reports about PC Chiddey dealing with street betting, drunk and disorderliness, vehicles without lights [1], discovering victims of suicides, people failing to report for duty and insufficient blackouts during the war.

	HALIPAX WEST RIDING COURT,
	SATURDAY.
	A FARMER AND HIS LAMP.
was P. duri of a on ti De lam; was the Lool mad ing : Th carry De light	A FARMER AND HIS LAMP. thur Parke, farmer, Greave House, Midgley, charg:d with having a vehic.e without light, C. Childey said he saw defendant one inght ing the week in Luddenden Lane in charge horse and cart. He was leading the horse horse and cart. He was leading the horse sendant, holding up a weli-cleaned candle p said the cart was a very low one and he fetching a pig from the station. He thought light would show better if he carried it. ting at his summons, he said it was not e out right. He was summoned for not hav. a light, and he had one. the Charman (Sir A, F, Firth): You must not y it. The vehicle was without lamp, not you, fendant: I am summoned for not having a h, and I had one.
vehi	
(Lau Th De	sheriant: wen, I was on the ventue. ghter.) & Constable: He was wa'king. fendant: I got off the cart to speak to the table.
••1	fendant was fined 5s., costs inclusive. Night I ask," he enquired, "what I am I for?"
Th	e Chairman : You must read your summons. not for me to explain Acts of Parl ament

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.

The life stories of people with italicised names have been researched as part of the graveyard project and 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'.

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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 — Todmorden and district news

ph1 — photo credited to Craven's Part in the Great War, ph2 — photo credited to the Back in Settle Facebook site, submitted by Tony Lodge