

John and Ann Atkinson, plumber, glazier and confectioners

John Atkinson, born in 1821 in Settle, was the only child of Emma Huddlestone and her first husband Robert Atkinson. Robert died when John was six. Emma died when John was 20 and John continued to live with his step-father Thomas Harling. Emma, her parents and second husband Thomas are buried in the Ancient unmarked grave BX7/8.

Thomas Harling was a plumber and glazier in the Market Place and John Atkinson learnt his trade. John married Ann Jennings whose father, Thomas Jennings, had also died when she was an infant. John and Ann had a family of two sons, Thomas who died in childhood, and John and two daughters, Agnes and Annie. Ann worked as a confectioner [5C] while John worked as a plumber and glazier, but later John (Snr) joined her in the confectionery business. They lived at the top of Kirkgate at the corner of the Market Place.

When Ann was aged ten her mother Agnes (Ball) Jennings married Christopher Wright who ran the Bay Horse beerhouse in Langcliffe. Christopher previously worked in the mills and his change in occupation may have been due to an accident in which he lost his right arm. Ann's daughters Agnes and Annie often stayed with their grandparents.

On 9th January 1871, on a night when Agnes and Annie were staying with their grandparents, the family were involved in a terrible incident in which Christopher Wright, now 75 and with only his left arm [3], was beaten to death by a navy Ellis Parker, alias Nelson [1].

There were hundreds of navvies 'in town' because the Settle and Carlisle Railway was being built. They had well deserved reputation of causing trouble. There were numerous newspaper reports of drunken behaviour and assault [A]. Ellis Parker, an 'excavator' aged 25, originally from Clitheroe had four previous convictions for assault. Not a nice man.

Ellis had entered the beerhouse at 9.30pm with other navvies. Agnes asked them all to leave at 11pm but Ellis and one other navy refused despite Agnes trying to pay him six pounds to do so. Ellis started fighting with Christopher who fell and hit his head on furniture with (eventually) fatal results. At midnight 19 year old Agnes was sent to Settle to fetch the police, PC Taylor, who apprehended Ellis. Agnes Wright and granddaughters Annie, aged just 14, and Agnes all gave evidence [1].

William Altham was the surgeon who cared for Christopher until he died and also gave

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MRS. ATKINSON

Begs most respectfully to thank her numerous friends for the very liberal support she has had for the last ten years, and hopes by offering a First Class Article to merit a share of public patronage, and also to inform them that she is appointed Agent for the "CHINA TEA COMPANY," incorporated by act of parliament, 18 and 19, cap. 133.—which gives the inhabitants of this part a chance of purchasing Pure and Genuine Teas as imported.

COMMITTAL OF A MAN FOR MURDER.

Ellis Parker, *alias* Nelson, a native of Whalley in Lancashire, latterly employed on the Settle and Carlisle railway now in course of construction, and who has been in custody since the 9th inst., charged with having assaulted Christopher Wright, a beer-seller at Langcliffe, and has been remanded several times, the injuries received by Wright being of so serious a nature as to prevent his attendance. Wright has since died from the injuries received, and the prisoner was brought up on Wednesday last, before J. Birbeck, Esq., Rev. H. J. Swale, and H. Christie, Esq., and charged with the more serious offence of murder. Two informations—

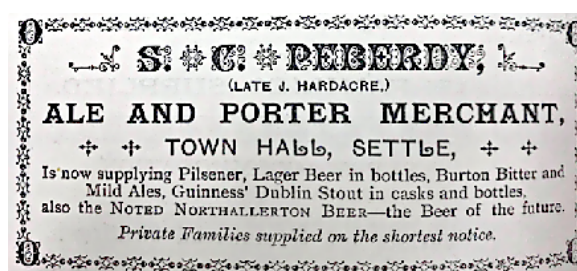
About eleven the deceased, who was 75 years of age, and had only one arm, his left, got all the company out of the house with the exception of prisoner and his companion, who refused to go. Mrs. Wright asked them to go out, but they stated they intended to remain all night. She said if they would go out she would give them sixpence. Prisoner said he would, but after getting the money still refused. He was informed that the police were coming,

Agnes Atkinson said I am a daughter of John Atkinson, painter, Settle, and a granddaughter of the last witness. I lived at Langcliffe at the deceased's house. I remember Sunday, the 8th inst. My grandfather was then in good health. The prisoner came into the house with another man about half-past nine. I had seen him before and knew him by the name of Nelson. There were other parties in the house. I remember my grandfather telling the people in the house to go, a little before 11. They all went out with the exception of the prisoner and another man. They wanted some more beer. Grandmother gave the prisoner 6d. on his promising to go out, he took the 6d. but did not leave. My grandfather went to him about 12 request-

Meanwhile in the early 1880s John and Ann had an ongoing altercation with their neighbours Thomas and Hannah Leeming – the reports [1] in 1881 and 1882, explain that Thomas was ordered not to touch John's property after an argument over where to place a water butt and damage to a slopstone pipe. The slopstone was a large shallow earthenware sink used to drain clothes during the Monday wash day routine. The judge said that if ever there was a case where there ought to be an amicable arrangement, this was it. It didn't appear to be resolved and the Leemings moved to Hornby.

Esq., judge.—*Atkinson v. Leeming*: In this case Mr. F. F. Pearson, of Kirkby Lonsdale, appeared for the plaintiff, John Atkinson, confectioner, Settle, who claimed from Thomas Leeming, watchmaker, Settle, £4 for damages to a slopstone pipe, and also claimed an injunction to restrain defendant from injuring his property in future. Mr. Pearson was proceeding to

Daughter Annie married Storer Clement Peberdy, a farmer's son from Leicestershire, in 1879. They married in Leicestershire but returned to Settle where Storer initially found work as a railway signalman. Later he became an Ale and Porter merchant at the Town Hall [LSA, CH] and probably worked alongside *William Clark* who had previously been the innkeeper of the White Horse Inn in Settle. Annie died in 1888, aged 31, possibly with issues related to childbirth. Annie is buried in the *OldA35*. For some reason church organist *John Goddard Barker* is buried with her. He died some thirty years later in 1927 without any other relations in the graveyard but has a fine stone to commemorate his life (*below*).



John Atkinson died in 1889, just a year after daughter Annie, and Ann in 1892. They are buried in the unmarked grave *Old BX35* which lies directly behind that of Annie. One has to wonder why they weren't buried with Annie? Perhaps someone couldn't remember exactly where Annie's grave was.

What happened to Annie's husband Storer Clement Peberdy? It's not good.

After Annie's death Storer returned to Leicestershire to live with his parents and work as a labourer. In 1895 he married *Eliza Mason* and they moved to Nottinghamshire. Unfortunately, this really didn't work out and they separated. In 1906 Eliza took Storer 'of no fixed address' to court for an assault, entitled '*Domestic Infelicity*' which had left her ill for six weeks [2]. Storer had only just left prison after a previous assault on Eliza.



DOMESTIC INFELICITY.—Eliza Peberdy, of 25, West-gate, Old Basford, summoned her husband, Storer Clement Peberdy, of no fixed address, for having assaulted her on August 15th. Mr. H. B. Clayton, who prosecuted, said that on July 14th defendant was sentenced to one month's imprisonment for assaulting his wife, and had only just left prison when he went to Mrs. Peberdy's residence and injured her so badly that she was ill for six weeks. Mrs. Peberdy now asked for a maintenance order for 7s. a week, as she did not live with defendant, and this was granted.

In 1910 Storer found himself in more trouble for the violent and felonious assault on *Harriet Tissington*, a single charwoman, which resulted in rape. He had previously been convicted four times for drunkenness and

Clement Peberdy, 55, Labourer
(Bailed 6th January.)
Four times for drunkenness, assault, &c.
THE SAME CLEMENT PEBERDY

assault. Storer's charge was reduced to 'misdemeanour, indecent assault' following a medical assessment [2]. This would not have made poor Harriet feel any better.

By the time of the next census he was working as a labourer in Nottingham gas works. Storer lived to the age of 78. Some people led very stressful lives.

On the 1st day of January, 1910, feloniously and violently did assault Harriett Tissington, and then violently and against her will feloniously did ravish and carnally know the said Harriett Tissington. On the 1st January, 1910, unlawfully and indecently did assault one Harriett Tissington. And Count. Common assault.

John Goddard Barker, organist and choirmaster

John, born in 1861, was the eldest son of stationer John Barker and Ellen Goddard from Ashby-de-la-Zouch. He must have been a talented young man becoming a Professor of Music in his 20s. He started his musical career in Matlock Bath – in the 1880s and 1890s there are numerous adverts for concerts in which John and his students performed [4].

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Organist and Choirmaster at Giggleswick Church,
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BESIDES the diploma from the Royal College of Organists, Mr. BARKER holds certificates for having passed several other Examinations, including the Royal Academy Local Examination in PIANOFORTE PLAYING (Senior Division), and the Trinity College Local Examination in Musical Knowledge (Senior Division.)

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A. R. C. O.



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In June, 1911, both candidates (Senior & Junior) trained by Mr. Barker, for Trinity College Local Examinations, passed successfully in Singing, at the New Town Hall, Lancaster—the Junior with Honours.

In November, 1910, on the recommendation of Mr. Barker, one of his pupils applied for and obtained the post of Organist at Closeburn Parish Church, Dumfriesshire, Scotland, at a salary of £70 per annum.

Penyghent View, Settle.

John's brother, William Henry Goddard, was a travelling salesman, probably selling books from his father's business. After their mother's death John and William moved up to Settle and lived at Halsteads. The advertisements for John's music and singing lessons [LSA] explain he was working as organist and choirmaster at Giggleswick Church.

In 1897 William Henry Goddard married Francis Mary Preston, the daughter of a Sutton Coldfield schoolmaster. As three would be a crowd, John moved out to become a boarder at 5 PenYgent View, with his landlady Elizabeth Poole [LSA]. John remained there for the rest of his life, even after Elizabeth had died. William and his wife stayed at Halsteads.

Settle Graveyard Project

In 1900, St Alkelda's Church appointed Rev Theodore Percy Brocklehurst as its next incumbent. He was a controversial figure who seemed to have an art of upsetting many people, with solicitor *Thomas Brayshaw* developing an obsessive hatred of him. One of Rev Theodore's early decisions was that the church should save money by having voluntary bell ringers and organists instead of paid ones. This is probably why, in 1903 John Goddard Barker moved to Holy Ascension church. Church records tell us that John was selected as their church organist and choir master from a strong field of 14 candidates on 21 March 1903. The post was with effect from May 1, with a salary of £35 per annum. John was allowed four Sundays off, two in August and two in the Easter vacation as long as he found a substitute to officiate for him. The new vicar, *Rev Walter Linney* had recently been appointed.

John resigned on April 2nd 1913 after ten years in service, aged 52, just after a recital on new church organ. The soloists were the wife and daughter of *Dr Charles William Buck*. John was presented with a silver cigarette case and match box as a 'slight appreciation of regard and esteem for past services'[LSA].

John met a tragic end in 1927, aged 66, 'apparently caught by a passing train during the night'[3]. John left a substantial estate to his brother William.

John was buried with a fine view of the railway in the same grave as *Annie (Atkinson) Peberdy*, above.

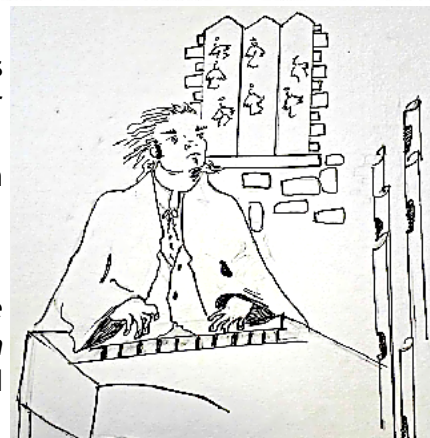
In loving memory of John Goddard Barker who died Sept 16th 1927 in his 67th year, Old A35.



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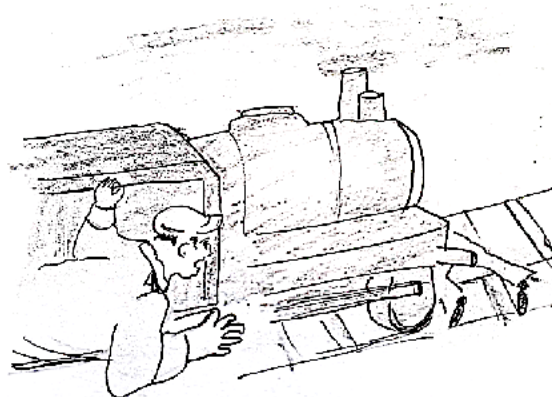
11. Mr. J. Goddard Barker, A.R.C.O., organist and choir-master, gave an Organ Recital on the new instrument at Settle Parish Church. The soloists were Mrs. Morton Buck and Miss Monica Buck, of Giggleswick.

29. Mr. J. Goddard Barker who had been organist and choir-master at Settle Parish Church for ten years, was presented with a silver cigarette case and match box, by the members of the choir, along with the officials of the Church, as a slight appreciation of regard and esteem for past services.

COMPOSER KILLED.

The body of Mr. John Goddard Barker, a North-country music teacher and composer, was found on the L M S Railway line at Settle, on Saturday.

Mr. Barker, who was 66 years of age, had apparently been caught by a passing train during the night.



Settle Graveyard Project



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](http://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'.

Illustrations kindly provided by the talented Teresa Gordon.

A – for more information about the navvies in Settle the book 'Railway Navvies of Settle: the end of the line' is available from the Graveyard Project, £3, all proceeds to charity.

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Lancaster Gazette, 2 – Nottingham Evening Post, 3 – Leeds Mercury, 4 – Derbyshire Advertiser.

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