## John Moffat, Scottish banker and gentleman

C20 Sacred to the memory of John Moffat OB June 19th 1841 AET 64. Also Mary his widow OB Dec 16th 1846 AET61. She was the daughter of Joseph Hall who practised many years as a surgeon in Settle.

John Moffat was born in 1777, an only child from Canonbie, Dumfriesshire. By 1803 he was in Settle working as a banker's clerk. At this stage in the Napoleonic wars, he was also a lieutenant in the 'Settle Militia'. He quickly worked his way up through the Craven Bank, becoming a partner with some of the well known families - Birkbecks, Pearts and Redmaynes. In



1830, aged 53, John withdrew from the partnership and lived as a 'gentleman'. John was one of the Founder Trustees of the Holy Ascension Church.

John married Mary Hall in Carlisle in 1817. Mary's dad, Joseph Hall, had been a surgeon in Settle. From 1826, they lived in 'Hillside' at the lower end of Constitution Hill. John died of liver

On the 19th inst., in the 64th year of his age, esteemed and respected by all who knew him, Jno. Moffatt, Esq., of Settle, many years a partner in the Craven Bank.

disease in 1841 [1] and left a detailed will with provision for his widow who died of heart disease five years later. He asked *William Robinson* and *John Birkbeck* to manage his estates in Langcliffe and in Coniston in the Lake District. John had shares in the Leeds to Liverpool Canal (opened in 1820, and making a healthy profit transporting coal across the Pennines) and the Lancaster Canal which opened in 1826.

The main beneficiary of his will was Jane Creighton, a daughter of his widowed cousin, another Jane Creighton who herself died when young Jane was six. Jane continued to live in the same house and make a living from John's property until she died in 1877. Jane is buried at Giggleswick church, alongside relations including her uncle Rev'd John Armstrong who had become Classical Assistant at Giggleswick School in 1803. Jane's headstone at St Alkelda's in Giggleswick was erected by the Rev'd Henry Arthur Starkie 'as a token of his esteem' — she left a considerable sum to Henry and several other young men of the cloth. Henry's family continued to live at Hillside. Unfortunately, towards the end of his life 'Old Starkie' downsized to Ribble Terrace and was known as a scrounger and miser, despite his wealth. He was often seen with a malnourished dog, a piece of string attached to its collar because Henry decided he couldn't afford a dog lead. Occasionally Henry would ask people to store boxes for him. Upon his death they were found to contain all sorts of treasures. In addition the banks stored huge chests of silver and cut glass. His estate was worth over £16 million at today's value.

The source will be seen the liegisty of the fluegate Court of yet.

If the source will care will also hostoment as follows & give and because the source with the same and enforcement of one of our owners are and appearence to the same or one and only one of the source will the same the same or one and and one of the same or one and and the same of the same or one of the same of the same

٠٠٠ الـز٠٠٠

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

## Settle Graveyard Project

is ongoing and welcomes queries and information on settleresearch@gmail.com. Latest news and events are on the Facebook page 'Settle Graveyard Project'.

With thanks to Catherine Vaughan-Williams for her help in the compilation of this story. Newspaper cutting with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 — Leeds Intelligencer