

Anthony and Catherine Buck, shoemakers

Dr Buck is one of Settle's better known and incredibly talented characters and, despite being a 'Giggleswick family', there are a couple of his siblings buried in Settle graveyard. **Anthony Buck** was the fifth son of **William Buck** and **Ellen Hardacre** and **Catherine Buck** was the youngest of two daughters.

During the 1830s the family had moved to Giggleswick from Long Preston and lived on Teme/Thames Street, living on inherited 'independent means'. William died in 1848, leaving Ellen a reasonable sum. By the time of the 1861 census, widow Ellen had moved into the beautiful Rose Cottage on Church Street in Giggleswick, making a living as a proprietor of houses. Famously, **Russell Harty** later lived there. William and Ellen were buried back in Long Preston with three children.



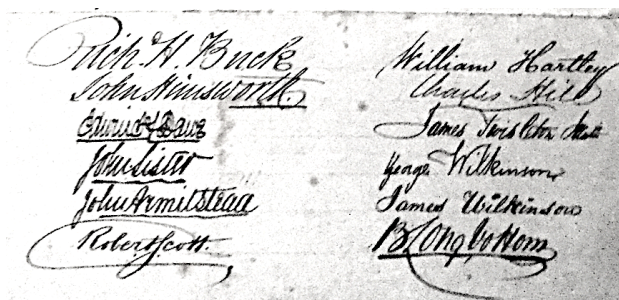
In memory of the late William Buck of Giggleswick who died May 17th 1848, aged 75 years. Also Ellen, relict of the above. William Buck who died May 20th 1863 aged 85 years. And of the children of the above, John Buck who died October 23rd aged 74 years, Ellen Buck who died March 17th 1881 aged 65 years.

Poor wife Ellen, who died in 1863, aged 84, scarcely got a mention, just being the 'relict'. Son William died in 1893, not 1863 as clearly inscribed on the gravestone. Like many others, this gravestone would probably have been erected and inscribed well after the deaths when memory (and perhaps hearing) were confused.

Eldest son **John** worked as an agricultural labourer and lived with spinster sister **Ellen** and they were buried with their parents in Long Preston. William and Ellen's third son, **William Hardacre Buck**, worked as an agricultural/road/quarry labourer in Giggleswick. He married twice and had four daughters and a son and was also buried with his parents. When he was 47, William and Ellen's fourth son, **Robert Buck**, a joiner, married 18 year old **Mary Miller** who gave birth to five daughters before he died, aged 56. Three daughters died in infancy and a fourth daughter, **Mary Ann**, died aged 21 and is buried in Settle in the unmarked grave *Old BX59*. Poor widow Mary worked as a charwoman, later moving to the Colne area. With other successful relations it's perhaps surprising that she was left to this fate. Robert and Mary's remaining daughter **Grace** married **Walter Himsforth** who came from the same village as solicitor's clerk **John Himsforth** and was probably related. So, these were hardworking folk, lower down the social scale. However there was one exception.

Second son **Richard Hardacre Buck** was the academic of the family and became a solicitor. He lived in Bond End, Kirkgate, just above Marshfield in Settle where **John Jackson**, also a solicitor, had previously. Richard's first wife, **Sarah Kenrick**, died at the birth of their son **Richard Hardacre Buck**. After attending Giggleswick School Richard (Jnr) worked for a short time as a solicitor's clerk.

He was one of one of several solicitor's clerks appealing to their employers to be given time off on a Saturday [ph6]. Other clerks included with **James Twisleton**, **John Armitstead**, **John Lister**



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and **John Himsworth**. Later, Richard (Jnr), ‘a dapper man with a small beard’ worked for the Indian Civil Service. He retired to Craven Terrace back in Settle.

Richard’s second wife was **Grace Garstang**, daughter of **Robert Garstang** who had built Garstang’s Yard and the Hart’s Head in Giggleswick. Several of Richard’s siblings later lived in Garstang’s Yard. Richard (Snr) is buried at Giggleswick with Grace and son Richard. First wife Sarah was buried elsewhere in Giggleswick graveyard.

In loving memory of Richard Hardacre Buck of Settle who died Dec’r 15th 1880 aged 72 years. “My times are in Thy hand.” (Psalm 31st.) Also of Grace Buck his widow who died Oct. 20th 1893 in her 80th year. Also R. H. Buck Jr died Dec. 28 1921 aged 81 years. B8/28



Richard and Grace’s only child was **Charles William Buck**, born in 1851 [ph1]. Charles’ life is well documented by the North Craven Heritage Trust and others so here are just a few highlights. After an education at Giggleswick School and medical colleges in Manchester and London, Charles qualified as a surgeon in 1875 and set up a successful business in partnership with Dr Williamson in the Market Place in the large house in the centre of the row below Constitution Hill [ph2]. The previous occupant of the property was **Dr James Hartley**. Charles did his rounds by horse and trap.



Charles soon brought medical practices up-to-date, relatively speaking. This included making his own medicines instead of relying on creative old wives’ remedies and apothecaries. Charles worked for some years with young surgeon **John Clark** before John’s premature death of pneumonia on the steamship SS Rotomahana. Inevitably, Charles was the surgeon involved in the medical cases of numerous graveyard residents. He diagnosed **Sarah Ann Hart**, a Wesleyan Minister’s niece, with ‘*religious melancholy and a bronchial cold*’ shortly before she took her own life in 1897. Support for mental health in the 19th century was non-existent. In 1902 Charles was the surgeon to send **Thomas Ralph** to Leeds Hospital for an amputation after a quarrying accident – Thomas later died. Charles certified the death by kidney failure of **Sergeant Major William Field Hook**, registrar and drill instructor for the North Craven Rifles and also that of 80 year old **Agnes Atkinson**, the widow of a billiard table proprietor, of a heart condition and apoplexy.

As a surgeon Charles became a pillar of the Settle community and took an active part in running groups such as St John’s Ambulance, on this occasion **Elias Davis** and **Thomas Henry Holden** delivered a talk on ‘Restoration from Drowning, by Silvester’s Method’ [ph2].



Talented musician Charles had a life long partnership with Settle’s musical groups, leading the orchestra of the Settle Amateur Dramatic Society and stayed with it as it became the Settle Amateur Operatic Society. He led the Settle Amateur String Band and was on the committee of Settle Choral Society in the good company of **Margaret Ann Ellis**, amongst others [LSA].

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SETTLE AMATEUR STRING BAND.

Conductor—Dr. Buck. *Leader*—Mr. Booth.
Hon. Treasurer—Mr. Wm. Horner. *Hon. Sec.*—Mr. Wm. Overing.
Committee—Messrs. J. L. Bulcock, Thomas Dawson, J. W. Nelson, and Robert Wilson.

This band was established for the benefit of young musicians desirous of practising together. Rehearsal every Wednesday night in the Mechanics' Hall. Anyone wishing to become a member may do so by applying to the hon. secretary or treasurer.

SETTLE CHORAL SOCIETY.

President—Lieut.-Col. Stansfeld.
Vice-Presidents—C. H. Charlesworth, Esq., T. Brayshaw, Esq.
Secretary—Rev. C. Routh. *Treasurer*—Mr. T. Dixon.
Librarian—Mr. George Hartley. *Leader*—Mr. Booth.
Committee—Dr. Buck, Rev. A. W. M. Close, Miss Ellis, Messrs. E. Handby, H. Lord, and Robert Wilson.

Charles first met **Edward Elgar** in 1882 when he was persuaded to join his orchestra for a performance on the last evening of a British Medical Association event. A good friendship was established. Elgar would visit Charles in Settle, occupying the first floor room above the surgery. Charles introduced Elgar to his friends the **Wilkinson Newsholmes**, who had lived in Kirkgate but had moved to Hellifield Green. Elgar and **Sarah Annie Wilkinson Newsholme** became romantically attached for a while. Charles and Elgar were also friends with accountant and musician **Charles Henry Best** and his wife **Sarah Smith** who lived at Mainsfield. A plaque on the wall of Charles' house in the Market Place commemorates Elgar's visits.



Elgar and Charles met through a mutual friend **John Beare** and in 1884 Charles married John's musical sister **Emma Foote Beare**. Emma gave birth a son and a daughter but died in 1902. A year later Charles married **Ella Margaret Watkins**, the daughter of Archdeacon Watkins of York who was a talented horticulturalist and they lived in York. Tragically she also died in 1907 just four years after their marriage and it was then that Charles retired, moving to back to Cravendale in Giggleswick which he had inherited. Charles was known to be consoled by his violin and cello and smoking a pipe.



This project is indebted to Charles [ph4] as, in later years, he transcribed the diaries of the **William Lodge Paley** to provide a unique insight into early 19th century life in Settle. Charles suffered with liver problems for several years before his death in 1932, aged 81. His obituaries [1,2] portray an intelligent, gentle and caring man. Charles was buried with his first wife, Emma and son **Morton Buck** in Giggleswick graveyard in a (currently rather overgrown) grave B8/95 with an understated inscription.

OBITUARY

DR. C. W. BUCK Settle Naturalist and Musician

The death occurred at Belle Vue, Giggleswick, yesterday, of Dr. Charles William Buck, aged 81.

Dr. Buck entered Owen's College, and in 1875 took the Degree of the Royal College of Surgeons of England which, at that time, was a double qualification in Surgery and Medicine. The following year he commenced practice in Settle and his business grew so rapidly that he took Dr. Williamson into partnership. In 1886, Dr. Williamson was appointed Surgeon to the Manchester Shop Canal.

Morton Buck Jan. 25 1921. *E. F. B.*, Oct. 3 1902.
C. W. B., Nov. 22 1932.

Dr. Buck was always keenly interested in music and conducted the Gilbert and Sullivan Operas at Settle for many years. Chamber music, however, was his chief interest, and he counted among his friends Sir Edward Elgar.

He married a daughter of the late Archdeacon Watkin, of York. He was President of the Settle Naturalist and Antiquarian Society and had a wonderful knowledge, through his family connections, of the people and customs of the Settle district. He had not been in the best of health for some years, and in 1906 retired from his business and devoted himself to music. He took no active part in the public life of the district.

James Riley described, 'Dr Buck's aquiline features peeped through his beard like an alert sparrowhawk... His low, dark music room with its log fire was stacked with albums and sheet music and it always seemed that the score that he wanted was at the bottom of the pile. But enthusiasm made up for our technical limitations and the doctor, blowing showers of sparks from his pipe like a locomotive, would shout encouragement as we galloped along. Dr Buck had a little terrier called Brunhilde which would slip into the room and station herself under her master's chair, adding her own notes to the confusion.' [A]



HOMELY AND KIND.

So far we have only seen the doctor as a musician. But the village people also know him as the kindly gentleman who went into the lowliest homestead and bounced the youngsters on his knee and chatted just as interestedly with the farm man as he gossiped with Sir Edward Elgar, a close friend of his, in his cottage sanctum.

He was something of a picturesque figure. Sometimes he seemed to have walked straight from the Victorian days when he wore his old-fashioned cap and cape.

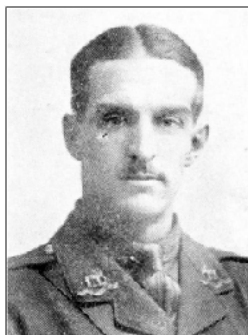
His home it was as remarkable as he himself was. His rooms are lined with antique treasures and curios. He was a confirmed votary of the weed, and in his rooms the visitor was sometimes astonished to see a basket arrayed with 20 or 30 pipes ready primed with tobacco. He would smoke steadily through them in a day, never lighting the same pipe twice.

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.

Son Morton was educated at Giggleswick School and married the Vicar of Rathmell's daughter, **Erica Littlewood Wheeler**, just eight years before his death in 1921, aged 35 and predeceasing his father. Widow Erica became a radiographer, living in Surrey. In 1913 Charles' daughter-in-law Mrs Morton Buck and daughter **Monica Garstang Buck** performed with Settle Church organist **John Goddard Barker** to test out the new organ [LSA].

Charles' daughter Monica Garstang Buck also enjoyed performances with the Settle Amateur Operatic Society [ph1, left]. She first married **Eric Marlor** whose parents had moved to live in Close House, Giggleswick on the proceeds of a Bradford Yarn business. 2nd Lieutenant Eric Marlor [ph3] served in the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment was killed on 3rd May 1917 on the Western Front, aged 27. Widow Monica, aged 47 then married a distinguished artist **Orlando Greenwood** who was from Nelson. They settled in Surrey.

So these were Anthony and Catherine Buck's siblings. Anthony worked mainly as a shoemaker, with a short period as a schoolmaster with sister Catherine keeping house and helping outwit the business. Catherine, aged 31, had an illegitimate daughter **Sarah Jane** who lived with them on



Tems Street, Giggleswick.

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It's not clear why Anthony and Catherine Buck are buried at Settle Church— they lived in Giggleswick all their lives and most of the Buck family are buried in Long Preston or Giggleswick graveyards. Perhaps there had been a falling out – it often happens, doesn't it?



Anthony Buck Born June 1821 died Dec 1890, Catherine born Dec 1st 1825, died May 26th 1904. Old B2/3

Catherine and Anthony have a grave each – being close to the edge of the graveyard the first three graves in this row are shallow, containing just one person. After Anthony's death, Catherine moved back into Rose Cottage with daughter Sarah Jane until she died.



Catherine's daughter Sarah Jane (Sally) initially worked as a schoolteacher. In later life she was housekeeper to her cousin Richard Hardacre Buck, the dapper solicitor, when he retired to live at 14 Craven Terrace. Sally [ph5] was known to own a red-crested parrot which she named Susie which she let out on fine days. Sally trained Susie to smoke a pipe, do simple sums, drink out of a goblet and salute pictures of the Royal Family. Sally lived to the age of 87 and was buried in Giggleswick graveyard.



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. 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'.

Illustrations kindly provided by Teresa Gordon. 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 – Morecambe Guardian, 2 – Yorkshire Post, 3 – Leeds Mercury.

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

A – Listening and Remembering, Memoirs of a Settle Boy by James F Riley

ph1 – with the kind permission of the Settle Amateur Operatic Society, thanks to John Reid, ph2 – credited to the Back in Settle Facebook Page, ph3 – credited to Craven's Part in the Great War, ph4 – with thanks to the Craven Herald and Pioneer, ph5 – Bill Mitchell's Gossip from Giggleswick, ph6 – photo with the kind permission of Pamela Jordan