

Two Stonemasons called John Bullock

Born in 1814, John Bullock was the eldest of seven children of **William Bullock** and his second wife **Ellen Carr**. Both parents had died by 1841, so John became the head of the household and looked after his remaining siblings - the youngest three sisters had died in infancy. In 1838 John had married **Elizabeth Sledding** from the Forest of Bowland, and she gave him seven children. John was just 39 when he died and is remembered on his gravestone with three of their children who died in their early years.

Six years later Elizabeth married **Thomas Bordley** who worked as a weaver and then quarryman. They brought up the rest of the Bullock children and are buried with John Bullock. Or are they?



Many gravestones were not inscribed until the man of the house died, or when the last of the family died. By then, memories of dates and ages could be slightly confused. Illiteracy was common, and this included the stonemasons. The gravestone, *Ancient E4*, reads:

In affectionate remembrance of John Bullock of Settle, died March 27th 1854 aged 40 years - John was only 39, and was not buried in E3 but in plot AX7 with a niece and two nephews

Elizabeth, widow of the above, died April 10th 1877, aged 60 years – correct!

Ellen their daughter, died Jan 13th 1841, aged 5 years. Robert their son, died Jan 12th 1846 aged 5 years. Ellen and Robert both died just before their 4th birthdays and are buried at St Alkelda's, Giggleswick

Elizabeth their daughter, died July 29th 1852 aged 5 years. Elizabeth was nearly 4 and her body is in AX17

Also of Thomas Bordley, second husband of the above who died Jan 17th 1875 aged 64 years – correct!

The only people actually buried in this grave seem to be John's widow Elizabeth with her second husband, Thomas Bordley. It is not uncommon for the residents in the grave to be different to those commemorated on the stone. In the Ancient graveyard this occurs in 10% of the graves.

Their daughter **Mary Ann Bullock** married **Samuel Compston**, son of the Minister, also **Samuel Compston**, at the Zion Chapel. Samuel (Jnr) ran a lucrative medical business in Burnley. Impressively, he was a Councillor and Alderman for 25 years, Chief Magistrate and Mayor. He was remembered affectionately as the 'father of Rawtenstall council', with liberal politics [1]. Samuel and Mary Ann may well have paid for their parents' gravestone after Elizabeth died (and forgotten some of the details).

Most of the men in the Bullock family were also stonemasons. Son, **William**



Bullock, stonemason, stayed in Settle and married **Ellen Broughton** from Thorton-in-Lonsdale. They had two sons, **Edgar** and **John**, who both died in infancy/childhood and a daughter **Betsey Bullock**.

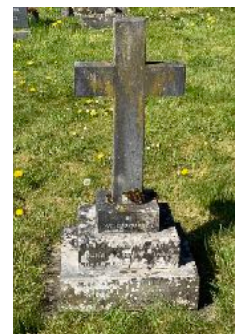
In July 1889, William came fourth (and last) in a swimming competition. It was held over 100 yards in the River Ribble above the Langcliffe top mill, then a paper mill. There were 200 spectators [CH]. Three local men raced against SS Burlington who must have been a 'professional'. Fastest 'local' was **James Allan Braithwaite**, a grocer's assistant from Middlesborough boarding with **John Bordley** in Settle, second was **Henry Stirk**, a builder from Skipton, third **Louis William Hansbrow** from Lancashire and last was **William Bullock**. The timekeeper was *Israel Jackson*.



SWIMMING CONTEST.—Considerable interest was excited in **Settle** and **Langcliffe** by the announcement that a swimming race would take place on Friday evening, July 28th, open to amateurs residing within a radius of six miles of **Settle**. On account of the unsettled weather the event was postponed until Monday the 29th, when the evening was all that could be desired. The place selected for the race was the reach in the river Ribble above the Paper Mill Wear, which, when the water is full to the brink, as it was on this occasion, affords a splendid straight course for a hundred yards race, the only drawback being that unless artificial means are resorted to the competitors are not able to dive in for a start. Three small prizes amounting in value to about 13s were given. It is estimated that about 200 spectators were present. The

After William died in 1891, aged 51, Ellen and Betsey went back to live in Thornton-in-Lonsdale but ten years later when she died aged 56, Ellen was brought back to Settle for burial with William in *Old D49*. Their gravestone remembers their two sons. Edgar was buried in the Ancient graveyard, hopefully with their grandmother, Elizabeth in *AncE4*, but there is no burial record for infant John, worryingly. Their daughter Betsey married **Sep Marsden**, a cotton spinner, originally from Settle and they lived in Nelson.

*In Loving Memory of William Bullock born June 19th 1840 died March 24th 1891
Also of Ellen his wife born December 6th 1845 died April 7th 1901 Thy Will Be Done
Also of their son John born June 2nd 1877 died Novr 8th 1877 Also their son Edgar born Febry 10th 1876 died March 7th 1883, Old D49*



John and Elizabeth's daughter **Sarah Bullock** married farmer **Thomas Atkinson** from Crawshawbooth near Rawtenstall and they lived close to Mary Ann and Samuel Compston.



The other John Bullock, also a stonemason, was probably related – the fertile Bullock families all seemed to originate in Gisburn. The John was the youngest of at least seven children born to **John Bullock**, a stonemason and mother **Mary Hall**. Only one of the other children survived infancy and childhood – his sister Jane married a tallow chandler called **Dawson Eglin** and they lived in the Folly after all their children had died. Other cousins were **Jane (Bullock) Ingham**, a widow who became one of Settle's female bread bakers (also based at the Folly with Jane Eglin), and **Alice Bullock** who was to marry the shoemaker **Titus Nelson**.

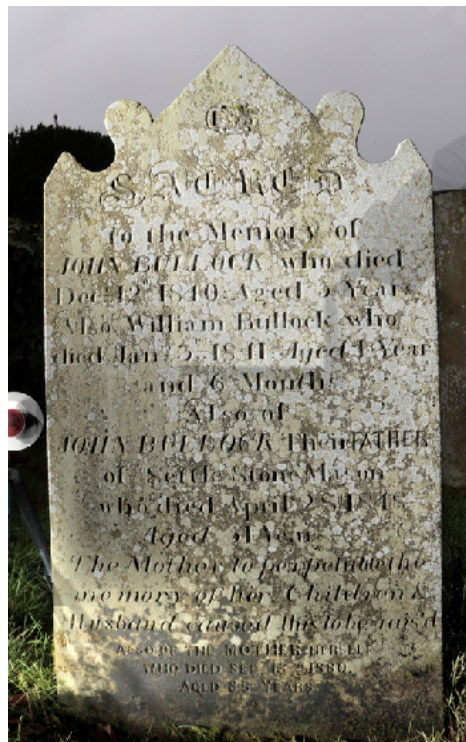
Settle Graveyard Project

This John Bullock was born in 1796 as a Quaker in Settle, but married Fanny Sanderson from Richmond in the established church in 1832. They lived near the Golden Lion, possibly on Cheapside and had 3 children, but John and William died in infancy. John was just 53 when he died (although the gravestone says 51) and is buried with his two sons. This gravestone was photographed using RTI software, and the inscription can now be read more clearly.



Sacred to the memory of John Bullock who died December the 12th 1840 aged 5 years. Also William Bullock who died Jan 3rd 1841 aged 1 year and 6 months. Also of John Bullock the father of Settle stonemason who died April the 28th 1848 aged 51 years. The mother to perpetuate the memory of her children. Husband caused this to be rais'd. Also of the mother herself who died September the 18th 1880 aged 85 years, D21.

Fanny took their only surviving child, Mary Ann, back to her roots in Richmond where she worked as a schoolmistress. Mary Ann married a draper and then an engine fitter, ending up in Burnley and taking her mother with her. Fanny is buried in Burnley but remembered on the gravestone. There are several spelling mistakes on the gravestone – perhaps neither Fanny, daughter Mary Ann nor the stonemason were very literate.



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.

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'.

Illustration kindly provided by Teresa Gordon.

Newspaper cuttings with kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Burnley News

CH - with the kind permission of the Craven Herald and Pioneer