

# The Taylors, at the heart of local life

Stephen Taylor, born in 1783, was from Rathmell. In 1806 he married Ellen Slinger in Giggleswick and they had nine children, with just one, Ellen, dying in infancy. For some reason their youngest daughter was baptised 'Mary Pollard Atkinson Taylor'. Ellen was 42 when she gave birth to Mary so perhaps this was the last chance to give some preferred names to the next generation. Stephen worked in the Langcliffe paper mills. During the 1850s the family moved to Upper Settle where Stephen ran one of three common lodging houses at the foot of Greenhead Lane.

Common lodging houses provided accommodation which were one step up from the workhouse. It was cheap, paid for on a daily basis but cramped. In some parts of the country beds were used by different 'inmates' (as they were sometimes referred to on census returns) in eight hour 'shifts' with shared beds for children. Lodging houses had a well deserved reputation as a hotbed of crime, prostitution and disease so were closely regulated: the separation of the sexes, the number of beds, designated sleeping areas, chamber pot and privy facilities, daily cleaning routines and expectation that they should be vacated between 10am and late afternoon to encourage residents to get out to find work. In 1855 Stephen was fined 20 shillings after *PC Cockshott*, who was also the Inspector of Lodging Houses, found '*persons of opposite sexes occupying the same sleeping arrangements*' [SC].

In 1850 Stephen received an award at the North Ribblesdale Agricultural Show for his apple rhubarb [1]. *Lawrence Hodgson*, the builder, also won awards for his blackcurrants, curled parsley and onions. Stephen died in 1860, aged 77, and Ellen in 1864, aged 80 and they are buried in unmarked graves somewhere in the Ancient graveyard.

Stephen and Ellen's eldest son *John*, born in 1810, was a clogger, along with several of his brothers. Clogs were made with leather and thick wooden soles which helped to keep the wearers' feet dry as they walked along muddy unmade roads. They were strong, durable and cheap and the preferred choice of millworkers. Clogs were less sophisticated than 'shoes' made by shoemakers and cordwainers. (Cobblers repaired shoes).

John ran his business in the basement of the Shambles [CH] but lived in 'Back Lane', now known as Castle Hill, living first at number 2 and then in the middle house of the three on the opposite side of Castle Hill, now demolished. Business was obviously good as the electoral register shows that John owned the Castle Hill property from 1874, buying from the *Harger* family.



SETTLE PETTY SESSIONS.—At the Settle Petty Sessions held 27th March, before Thomas Birkbeck, Esq.; Thomas Clapham, Esq.; Wm. Robinson, Esq.; and the Rev. H. I. Swale—John Rawsthorne, Innkeeper, Gisburn, on the information of W. H. Cockshott, Supt. Constable, was fined 20s. and costs for keeping his house open for the sale of liquors at 3.35 p.m. on Sunday the 11th March instant. Stephen Taylor, Settle, Lodging-house keeper, was fined 20s. and costs for permitting persons of opposite sexes to occupy the same sleeping apartments on the night of the 7th March instant.

The following also received prizes:—Ann Wilson, for strawberries; Lawrence Hodgson, black currants; Henry Fell, cherries; John Hardacre, white currants; Robert Storey, for cabbage, lettuce, onions, mangold worzel; J. Hardacre, for potatoes, carrots, and turnips; Thomas Hardacre, onions and turnips; Henry Ingham, large rhubarb; John Morpeth, kidney potatoes; Lawrence Hodgson curled parsley and onions; Stephen Taylor, apple rhubarb.



I recall the quaint little workshops in the basement of The Shambles. There was John Taylor's clog shop, which did a flourishing trade when clogs were a more common foot-gear than they are to-day. The boys and girls of my day nearly all wore clogs, and we often paid visits to the clog shop. Next came Richard Hardacre

In 1844 John married **Mary Tomlinson** from Ingleton. Mary had been an orphan since the age of 12. Her mother **Ellen Cragg** died in 1828, aged 46 and her father, **Christopher Oddie Tomlinson**, made national headlines with his tragic death in 1830. He was killed when King's Mill (then Proctor's Mill) burnt down [4]. Apparently Christopher escaped the fire but went back in to get a tobacco tin which contained a sovereign which is when he was overcome with smoke and died. Christopher and Ellen are buried in Giggleswick graveyard in unmarked graves.

**DREADFUL FIRE AT SETTLE, AND LOSS OF LIFE.**—On Wednesday last a dreadful fire broke out in the cotton factory belonging to Messrs. John Procter and Son, which consumed the whole of the building, and nothing is now standing but the out-walls. A person of the name of Christopher Tomlinson was taken out of the ruins burnt to death; he has left three orphans children to bewail his loss.—*Leed's Mercury.*

Mary had worked as a servant for widow **Isabella Harger** who made a good living from renting out several houses on Castle Hill. Once married to John, Mary gave birth to four sons and three daughters, one of whom was **Mary** who married **James Wilcock Lambert**, the father of the Settle printing dynasty. The youngest two children, **David** and **Ann**, died in infancy and daughter **Ellen** died when she was 23. Son **John** emigrated to Sydney, Australia.

In 1870 John, with sons **Christopher** and **Stephen** were accused of conspiring to avoid paying for a sheep from Mr Parker Hodgson. It sounds as if Christopher was at fault and he was made to pay back the cost at 10 shillings a month [1]. Not too long after this incident son Christopher, also a clogger, left for Wales and married **Gwendoline Owen**.



**HODGSON v. JOHN TAYLOR AND OTHERS.**—The plaintiff, Mr. Parker Hodgson, farmer, of Stainforth, was represented by Mr D. H. Robinson, and the defendants Messrs. John Taylor, Stephen Taylor, and Chr. Taylor, were defended by Mr. Clark. The action was brought to recover £16 2s., the price of sheep which the plaintiff alleged he had sold to the defendants. Chr. Taylor pleaded non-liability on account of infancy. It appeared from plaintiff's case that the sheep were sold to Chr. Taylor, but as was alleged by Mr. Clark, without the knowledge of the other defendants. Plaintiff endeavoured to prove that the three defendants were in partnership, but in this he entirely failed.—His Honour gave a verdict for John and Stephen Taylor, with costs, and Chr. Taylor consented to pay for the sheep at the rate of 10s. a month.

John and Mary earned a bit of extra cash running the wonderful Castleberg leisure ground. Since the 1830s, at least, the grounds below Castleberg Rock were for entertainment, costing a penny to enter. A document and photos on the Back in Settle Facebook page shows that when the business was sold to **Stephen Kitchener** in 1898 there were extensive facilities, albeit many of them broken. They included:





- a pay hut and workshed at the entrance, barns and a greenhouse
- a bowling green, seven wooden horses with three carriages, double swing frames, two horse see saws and one plank see saw
- a lower set of swings, a refreshment hut and garden chairs, gymnasium uprights with bar and several broken chairs

The whole business was valued by **Joseph Bell** on Chapel Hill to be worth £15 12s and 6d. Incredibly there was a figurehead from a ship attached to the rock [CH, ph2]. The figurehead, supposedly of Lord Nelson was bought by **Henry Snell** and stored in the barn of **Robert Garner** and was the source of much local amusement [CH].

It seems that Henry Snell had bought a ship's figure-head at Barrow which represented some great warrior, and for convenience it was put into the barn previous to its being bolted into Castleberg Rock.

opposite the entrance. The ship's head figure, which used to be fastened in the front of the Rock, was supposed to be an effigy of Lord Nelson and was fixed up by James Hardaker, who at that time rented Castleberg. When the figure reached Settle it was deposited in Robert Garner's barn. Robert covered it with hay and then reported to the police that there was a man in his barn who would not be moved. The sergeant and constable visited the barn and after many exhortations to the figure to "get up" found to their annoyance that a joke had been perpetrated upon them. I think they forgave the farmer, as I never heard of any proceedings against him on this account.

around, but no traces of the time-recorder now remain. In my younger days a penny was charged for admission to the grounds, the key being kept by John Taylor, the clogger. There were swings, a round-about, a saw-saw, and a skittle alley, all of which gave the youth of the town endless pleasure in those days. Winding walks lead to the summit of the rock, the face of the latter being the natural habitat of a species of yellow gilliflower, which found a precarious root-hold in every nook and cranny. At one time, too, a figurehead of a ship protruded from the base of the rock, but whence that alien object came I never learnt. The view from the summit was regarded as one of the finest in Craven. The little town nestled

John died in 1878, aged 68 and Mary made a living renting out the house on Castle Hill and as the 'Keeper of Castleberg'. She lived just round the corner on the High Road opposite the entrance to the leisure ground. Mary died in 1903, aged 87. She is buried in the grave *Old E45* with a fine gravestone that also commemorates John, Ellen and the two infants. However Mary is alone in this grave as the others are in the Ancient graveyard, hopefully together.



*In Loving Memory of John Taylor of Settle who died Oct 19th 1878 aged 68 years. Mary wife of the above died May 30th 1903 aged 87 years. Ellen their daughter died Sept 20th 1870 aged 23 years. Also David and Ann who died in infancy, Old E45*

At the time of the 1881 census, Mary lived next door to their eldest son, **Stephen Taylor**, also a clogger, with his wife, **Mary Ann Renshaw**. Mary Ann was from Manchester, the daughter of unmarried mum **Ann Renshaw**. Ann lived a few doors away working as a charwoman with a grandchild of her other illegitimate child, **Thomas**. In 1872 Stephen was taken to court for refusing to have his eldest son, **John Stephen Taylor**, vaccinated [1]. Imagine that!

**REFUSING TO HAVE A CHILD VACCINATED.**—At the Petty Sessions, on Tuesday, before J. Birbeck (Chairman), H. J. Swale, and C. Ingleby, Esqrs., Stephen Taylor, a clogger, residing at Settle, was summoned, under section 31 of the Vaccination Act, for having a child, under the age of 14 years, unvaccinated, and under which section he was required to produce the child. Mr. H. King, vaccination officer, attended, and proved the service of the requisite notices. Mr. Lister, clerk to the Guardians, appearing in support of the information. The Bench made an order upon the defendant, requiring him to have the child vaccinated within seven days.

He was ordered to comply within seven days. This may have contributed to Stephen's decision, after the birth of three more sons, to take his family to Australia on an assisted emigration ship. Cheap fares were available to encourage the British workforce to travel abroad to help expand the British Empire. Numerous young men from Settle had made this journey before and perhaps Stephen was tempted by the stories of wealth and fortune. Of course criminals had previously been punished by being sent there



too. Stephen died in New South Wales in 1921, aged 75 [ph1].

Going back a generation Stephen and Ellen's youngest son David, born in 1823, was also a clogger. David ran his business in Church Street, Giggleswick. In 1851 he married Elizabeth from the fascinating *Thistlethwaite* family in Austwick. They didn't have children.

David was a keen gardener and bee keeper and took an active role in the Giggleswick Reading Room, created in 1871. David was the treasurer in 1874 [1]. In 1872 the Reading Room celebrated its progress and £15 pounds in the bank. David read a poem to thank Rev H J Bulkeley (see Pierson), Arthur Brewin and the committee for their support and fundraising [1].

By the time of the 1881 census David had changed career to become the Giggleswick sub-postmaster. Perhaps the decline of the mills and improved shoemaking technology contributed to this decision? Elizabeth died in 1884. At the time of the next census, David was living with Agnes Ann Arkwright from Kendal and their son John Wentworth Taylor. (There doesn't appear to be a formal marriage certificate for David and Agnes.) Agnes had previously worked in Giggleswick as a servant to *Elizabeth Stansfeld* at Bankwell. David was 63 when John was born in 1886 and Agnes was 40.

1892 was significant for the Parish of Giggleswick as this was the year that the Parishes of Settle, Rathmell and Langcliffe became Parishes in their own right rather than being part of Giggleswick Parish [2]. The other churches had been consecrated in 1838, 1843 and 1851 respectively but, under

the rules and regulations, could not become Parishes until the 'voidance of the incumbency of the Parish of Giggleswick' which was not until 1892. The 'Gentleman called the 24' had been the representatives from the four areas who made decisions such as appointing churchwardens, but they were now redundant. In this year David was appointed sidesman.

David died in 1898, aged 75. Agnes took over as sub postmistress but died soon after in 1902, aged 56 (although their gravestone reads 54). David and both his wives are buried together in Giggleswick graveyard.

*In affectionate remembrance of Elizabeth the beloved wife of David Taylor of Giggleswick who entered into rest Sep'r 16th 1884 aged 65 years. "Her end was peace." Also of the above David Taylor entered into rest Oct'r 27th 1898 aged 76 years. Also of Agnes Ann widow of the above who entered into rest Jan'y 19th 1902 aged 54 years. B8/17*

Son John Wentworth Taylor was just 15 when his mother died but did well despite this. In 1911 he married Hannah Jane Parker from Clapham and they had two children. During the war he used the telegraphy skills

men themselves.—We are glad to hear that the festival has resulted in a considerable addition to the funds of the Reading Room, which we have no doubt will be the most satisfactory return that could be made to Mr. David Taylor, the treasurer, for all the trouble he has taken about it.

Normandy Maid." The entertainment, which was in every respect a successful one, was fittingly wound up by Mr. David Taylor, one of the most active supporters of the Reading-room, who in very creditable original rhymes told the story of the room from its commencement, paying a high compliment both to the former secretary and originator, the Rev. H. J. Bulkeley, and to his worthy successor, Mr. Brewin, and also thanking on behalf of the committee the numerous ladies and gentlemen who by music, lectures, and readings had contributed so much to their enjoyment and to the funds

## GIGGLESWICK.

**GIGGLESWICK EASTER VESTRIES**—The usual Easter meeting of "The Gentlemen called the Twenty-four" being the select vestry of the Parish of Giggleswick was held in the Carr Chapel of the Parish Church at St. Alkelda on Easter Monday. Since the last annual meeting an opinion had been obtained from the Chancellor of the Diocese to the effect that the Ecclesiastical Districts of Settle, Rathmell and Stainforth having now become separate parishes, they were no longer entitled to be represented by wardens at the ancient Parish Church. Consequently the custom of appointing four wardens, which has existed from time immemorial to the year 1693, comes to an end. Captain W. A. Stackhouse was re-appointed churchwarden for Giggleswick, and Mr. David Taylor sidesman. By the Chancellor's decision the ancient body called the "Twenty-four" must now consist of householders or property owners in the Ecclesiastical parish of Giggleswick, thus creating ten vacancies in that body, for the purpose of filling up which vacancies a special meeting will be held on the 8th of April.





picked up at the Post Office to work for the Royal Engineers, described in documentation as an 'expert telegraphist'.



He is an expert telegraphist, and cannot be released for enlistment, except in the Royal Engineers, Signal Section. The arrangements as regards enlistment in this Section are in the hands of the Director of Army Signals (Home Defence).

**Mr. J. W. Taylor**

Mr. John Wentworth Taylor, of Utley, Keighley, who has died, aged 59, was formerly an overseer at Keighley Post Office, where he served for 37 years. He held the Imperial Service Medal for long and meritorious service.

After the war John continued to work for the Post Office in Keighley. He won the Imperial Service medal for long and meritorious service having worked there for 37 years when he died in 1946, aged 59 [3].

John and Hannah's son, another John Wentworth Taylor was born in Giggleswick but spent the end of his life in Church Street, Giggleswick. His remains are in Giggleswick graveyard with a small plaque remembering a 'Dales family doctor'.



*John Wentworth Taylor 1917 - 1989. In memory of a Dales family doctor.*

Going back to Stephen and Ellen, their second son Stephen, born in 1820, became a weaver. After the Settle mills went out of business in the 1850s he moved to Barnoldswick and then Blackburn with his wife Tamar Harling and his seven children. Stephen and Tamar had twins, also named Ann and David who died in infancy before they left Settle – sadly the twins don't have a burial record. Stephen died, aged just 44, in Blackburn. Tamar came back to Settle and married widow Richard Lord, who was her first cousin, grandparents in common being John Harling and Tamar Ralph. Richard, a hawker, already had three children with his first wife, Ellen Bell so they had quite a houseful and money would have been tight. Tamar was quite a character it seems, criticising Queen Victoria for wanting to live close to her daughters once they were married [CH]. Tamar died in 1888, aged 67, is buried with Richard and his daughter Mary Ann in the unmarked Old AX67. After Tamar died Richard had four more children with his third wife, Jane Ellershaw, over 30 years his junior.

house. An old woman, Tamar Lord by name, as full of fun and humour as a girl of twenty, beckoned me to her and said "I don't call t' Queen at all a sensible woman for doing such a thing. Now I always stipulated that my dowters 'usbands took their wives away out of mi house when they wed 'em. I think that was far more sensible, and I've married five."

That same evening I asked old Tamar if she was attending the cottage cookery classes which were being held in the town that winter. "Not I," she replied, "they tell yer to tak an 'andful o' this and a tablespoonful o' that and a pinch o' summat else and when you've mixed it all 'up and fried it there's a nice tasty dinner. But they don't tell yer ow to mak a dinner when you've nowt but a kipper i' t' 'ouse and noa coals, and that's what I'm at mony a time." Old Tamar passed on suddenly a year or two afterwards, retaining her keen sense of humour to the end, and by her death Settle lost one of its most interesting and amusing characters.

Stephen and Tamar's son Thomas Taylor, a stonemason's labourer, came back to Settle with Tamar. He married Dinah Eliza Stockdale from Rathmell. They are buried in the grave OldC67 with their infant daughter Isabella Ann who was not commemorated on the stone.

*In Loving Memory of Thomas Taylor died Dec 25 1904 aged 42 years.  
Also Dinah his wife died June 25 1934 aged 72 years, Old C67*

Thomas and Dinah's son **John Stephen Taylor** worked on the railway. He is buried with his wife **Elizabeth Jane Derbyshire** in the grave *Old F62* with their infant son **Thomas William**.



*In Loving Memory of a dear wife and mother  
Elizabeth J. Taylor, 1887 + 1958 And of John Stephen Taylor dear husband  
of the above, 1887 + 1965. Also John their son 1915 + 1955, Old F62*

John Stephen's infant daughter Tamar was buried with great uncle John – Stephen and Ellen's son John, another stonemason's labourer who had married **Isabella Greenbank** from Dent. They are buried in the unmarked DX67.

The way the graveyard is laid out the Taylor and Lord grave plots are all in line behind each other: AX67, C67, DX67 and F62.



*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](http://dalescommunityarchives.org.uk/settle-graveyard-project). The 'Old Settle' family tree on [ancestry.co.uk](http://ancestry.co.uk) includes the families buried in the graveyard. The project is ongoing and welcomes queries and information on [settleresearch@gmail.com](mailto:settleresearch@gmail.com). Latest news and events are on the Facebook page 'Settle Graveyard Project'.*

*Many thanks to descendant Jeanne Carr for her help with the compilation of this account, including details of the Castleberg leisure ground. Illustrations kindly provided by Teresa Gordon. The life stories of people with italicised names have been researched as part of the graveyard project.*

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*SC – Settle Chronicle with the kind permission of the North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust*

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

*ph1 – credited to the descendants of the family on [ancestry.co.uk](http://ancestry.co.uk), Michelle Walker, ph2 – credited to the Back in Settle Facebook Site*