

Railway officers

After the Settle and Carlisle railway was built by the Midland Railway they needed railway maintenance men, signalmen and inspectors to run it. The signalmen and inspectors tended to be recruited from elsewhere and were provided with accommodation in the Railway Cottages on Cammock Lane. These had been built at the same time as the railway with the same corporate style of architecture. At the time it was felt that *'The erection of such structures shows a wise policy, as unless the men are comfortably housed, it will be a difficult task to keep them at their various posts, in the solitary and dreary places through which the line passes.'*[WSA] Here's one of the residents – see also *Silcock, Freeman, Beckerton, Moore and Dilley*



Mark Bellas Bolt, railway signalman and William Resbury

Mark Bellas Bolt was born in 1858 in Crosby Garrett near Kirkby Stephen, the youngest of eight children of Thomas Bolt and Isabella Bellas. Thomas worked as an agricultural labourer but, as the Settle to Carlisle railway passed right through Crosby Garrett, the siblings all found work on the railway.

In 1880, aged 22, Mark married Elizabeth Ewbank, the daughter of a shoemaker Matthew Ewbank from Appleby. Elizabeth was the only surviving child of two marriages and Matthew was 55 when she was born. Matthew had been declared bankrupt in 1864, when Elizabeth was just three [1].

IN THE COUNTY COURT OF WESTMORLAND,
HOLDEN AT APPLEBY.

In the matter of MATTHEW EWBAKE, of
APPLEBY, in the County of Westmorland, Boot
and Shoe Maker, a Bankrupt.

WHEREAS, at a Public Sitting of the
Court, held this day, the Court granted an
Order of Discharge to the said Bankrupt, Notice is
Hereby Given, that an Order of Discharge will be
delivered to the Bankrupt after the expiration of
thirty days from this date, unless, in the meantime,
an appeal be duly entered against the judgment of
the said Court.

Dated this 12th day of February, 1864.

JOHN HEELIS, Registrar.

Elizabeth's uncle John Ewbank, also a shoemaker, got into a bit of trouble over the alleged manslaughter of Elizabeth Atkinson after drunkenly giving her a 'thrust upon the breast'. This induced premature labour and then death of both mother and child. Interestingly, a Reverend Thomas Bellas, perhaps related to Isabella Bellas, administered spiritual comfort. John was found Not Guilty at the Quarterly sessions which followed this inquest [2]. Soon after John

INQUEST.—A great sensation was caused by Appleby and neighbourhood last week, in consequence of the death of a young woman named Elizabeth Atkinson, aged twenty-three years. An inquest was held upon view of the body on Monday last, before Mr. Atkinson, Coroner for that borough, of which the following are the particulars:—It appeared that a young man named John Ewbank, a shoemaker, was in the yard belonging to the Crown and Anchor Inn, where the deceased was servant, on Monday evening, the 24th ult., in a state of intoxication, and the deceased requested him to go about his business when Ewbank gave her a thrust upon the breast which caused her to reel against a tub that was standing in the yard. On the Thursday morning

standing in the yard. On the Thursday morning she was taken in labour, being between six and seven months advanced in pregnancy, and after suffering till about five o'clock on Saturday morning, she was delivered of a still-born male child. She continued to languish till about ten o'clock on Saturday night, when she expired. The Rev. Thomas Bellas, of Bongate, was called in a short time before she died, to administer spiritual comfort, and who took her deposition of the principal facts, declaring that Ewbank was the cause of her death, which was strengthened by the evidence of other witnesses. After a lengthened investigation, a verdict of Manslaughter was returned against John Ewbank, who was accordingly committed to Appleby Gaol.

married and had a family of his own.

Mark Bellas Bolt and Elizabeth had two sons and four daughters, although little **Maud Bolt** died in infancy. Soon after their wedding they moved to Settle, living in 2 Railway Cottages where they stayed for the rest of their lives together. Mark worked as a railway signalman.

After Elizabeth died in 1923, Mark retired to Morecambe [5] but his body was brought back for burial with



MR. M. B. BOLT.

The death took place at 4, Graves Terrace, Morecambe, on Wednesday evening, after a week's illness, of Mr. Mark Bellas Bolt, aged 71 years.

A native of Crosby Garrett, near Appleby, he was a retired signalman on the L.M.S., and most of his life was spent at Settle, where he was stationed.

His wife died four years ago. There are two sons and three daughters, one of the sons being Mr. A. J. Bolt, formerly of Morecambe, and chief cashier at the Midland Station, and now of Burton-on-Trent.

Messrs. Willis Bros. have charge of the funeral.

Elizabeth and their infant daughter Maud.

In Loving Memory of Mark Bellas Bolt Died at Morecambe, 6th March 1929 aged 71 years. Also Elizabeth his wife died 2nd July 1923 aged 63 years, Old B71.

Son **Albert James Bolt**, a railway clerk, married **Nellie Resbury** and they lived with their family in Burton-upon-Trent, Staffordshire. Nellie was the only surviving child of **William Resbury** and **Ellen Knowles**. Ellen was the daughter of **William Knowles** and **Esther Gifford**.

FATAL TERMINATION OF AN ACCIDENT AT WITHAM.—A few days since **Thomas Resbury**, a chimney-sweep, was thrown from his cart when going his rounds. The accident was not thought much of at the time, and Resbury appeared to have almost recovered from the effects of the fall, but on Sunday morning he was suddenly taken worse, and just as medical aid arrived he died from internal hemorrhage. The event cast quite a gloom over the locality, the family having of late been in trouble caused by illness. At All Saints' Church, on Sunday evening, the Rev. Canon Snell, at the close of his sermon, made suitable allusion to the sad event, and impressed upon his hearers the necessity of being prepared for death.

William Resbury was the youngest of eight children of **Thomas Resbury**, a chimney sweep and his wife **Elizabeth Ife** who lived in Witham near Braintree, Essex. Father Thomas died when William was just five and his mother remarried, this time to **Richard Huxter**, a widowed labourer. William's brothers all became chimney sweeps in Witham too. There must have been quite an abundance of chimneys in Witham. Chimney sweeping was more dangerous than it might appear. William's brother **Thomas Resbury**, chimney sweep, had married his step-sister **Mary Ann Huxter**. Thomas died after he fell off his cart whilst doing his rounds [3], aged 46, leaving Mary Ann with five children. The vicar impressed on the mourners 'the necessity of being prepared for death'.



William obviously decided chimney sweeping wasn't for him and was enticed by the prospect of railway work. By the 1870s he had moved to Settle from Essex working as a railway telegraph man. Not being a signalman William and Ellen had to find their own accommodation in Howson's Yard behind the Market Place. They are buried in the grave . . . Old H33 and their other two infant children **Thomas** and **Emily** are buried in unmarked graves in the Ancient graveyard.

Settle Graveyard Project

In Loving Memory of William Resbury who died May 11th 1932 aged 84 years. Also Ellen his wife who died June 11th 1916 aged 67 years, Old H33

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 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'.

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 – Penrith Observer, 2 – Kendal Mercury, 3 – Essex Newsman

WSA – Wildman's Settle Almanac with the kind permission of the North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust

ph1 – with the kind permission of John Reid via dalescommunityarchives.org.uk