

## Stephen Hargrave, farming the largest farm in West Yorkshire

In the 1850s, over a third of Craven workers were involved in farming. After land owners, tenant farmers were some of our wealthiest residents. They rented farms from the land owners and made money primarily from mainly cattle with a few sheep.

Stephen Hargraves, born in 1792 was 'a landed proprietor and farmer of 2250 acres', yes 2250 acres, at Stockdale Farm (behind Upper Settle). In 1851 there were only three other farms of this size in the whole of West Yorkshire. Stephen rented most of the land from the Dawsons (who also owned Langcliffe Hall, the Folly and Marshfield amongst others) and from Thomas Clapham of Stackhouse. Stephen was one of the few farmers involved in the droving trade, providing grazing for herds of sheep and cattle as they were marched across the country to market.

Stephen and his son Robert were regular prizewinners at the North Ribblesdale Agricultural Show, this in 1853 [1].

**BLACK-FACED AND OTHER SHEEP.**—Best black-faced tup, Stephen Hargraves, Settle, £1 ; 2, James B. Chapman, Wharfe, 10s. Best four black faced shearing gimmers, Stephen Hargraves, Settle, 10s. ; 2, Robert Hargraves, Stockdale, 6s. Best four black-faced stock ewes that have suckled lambs this season, John Proctor, Long Preston, 16s. ; 2, Stephen Hargraves, Settle, 10s. Best four

In 1818, Stephen married **Isabella Holgate** who allegedly descended from Archbishop Robert Holgate of York. Robert just about managed to survive the turmoil of Henry VIII's rule, although was defrocked by Queen Mary. Stephen retired in 1853 after the death of son William and lived at Rock House on Castle Hill, which his wife had inherited. Stephen and Isabella had 11 children, including twins but only three survived him. Stephen died in 1859, aged 67, after a failed gall bladder operation, according to family records [A].

Stephen Hargraves died in Leeds on 19 Feb. 1859 aged 67, subsequent to an operation for gall stones. He survived the operation, but his death was probably due to inefficient and perhaps unhygienic nursing afterwards.



*E19 Sacred to the memory of Stephen Hargraves formerly of Stockdale and late of Settle who died February 19th 1859 aged 67 years and Isabella his wife who died September 7th 1861 aged 68 years. Also of William their second son who died June 19th 1853 aged 28 years. Two daughters survive by whom this stone is erected.*



Stephen has the honour of two gravestones in his name. In addition to this grave at Holy Ascension, Stephen also has a family tomb right next to the front door of St Alkelda's Church in Giggleswick inscribed 'The family grave of Stephen Hargrave'. It probably contains his dad John and children John, aged 28, twins Alice and Elizabeth who died in their teens, infant Isabella and toddler Thomas. Next to it is the grave of Stephen's daughter **Annie Batten** and her husband John, who was

the principal clerk in Her Majesty's Customs and Excise. Annie died in 1900, leaving the equivalent of nearly £1 million to her son. In 1910, John died leaving the equivalent of just £40,000. Interesting.... The grave inscription bears the Batten coat of arms. Annie has a memorial window dedicated to her 'by her husband and son' at St Alkelda's, as reported in the Parish Magazine.



### THE "BATTEN" WINDOW.

In the North Aisle has been erected a Memorial Window to the late Mrs. Batten. The subject is of "The Good Shepherd" leading His flock into "green pastures," and which subject extends through the three lights. Our Lord in the centre light carries a lamb in His arms, and, with staff in hand, leads the flock by the river of the water of life, by the side of which lilies and other flowers are growing, the flock

following, some cropping the grass, and others about to drink from the stream. The text on the scroll at foot is "Look unto Me and be ye saved"—Isaiah, 45-22, and the memorial inscription is "In loving memory of Anne Batten, who died May 5th, 1900, by her husband and son." The window is executed in the best antique glass, the colour being confined to the subject, while the canopies are light, with gold enrichments of late gothic of the 16th century character. The Alpha and Omega are inserted in the head of the right and left canopy, and the memorial text is on a ribbon running through the base of the three lights. It is from the studio of Mr. T. W. Camm, of Smethwick, near Birmingham, the same artist by whom the chancel and west end windows were executed. The window is certainly a pleasant addition to the Church, and is as modest as it is tasteful and reposeful.

## Settle Graveyard Project

Robert Hargraves, born in 1828, was the third son of Stephen and Isabella. Robert married Isabella Jane Wilson and took over Stockdale Farm when his dad retired. Unfortunately Robert died of tuberculosis, aged 32, just six months after his dad [A].



Robert's sister Jane married Adam Brown, a handsome Scottish farmer, and they lived in Dumfriesshire [A]. Robert's wife Isabella was Adam Brown's cousin. Family notes describe that Isabella was 'inclined to be rather tiresome'! She outlived her husband by 52 years, and family letters describe how Adam managed Isabella's finances during this time, helping her live off railway investments. Family letters written in the 1860s show the precarious nature of the investments [A].

My Dear Adam

I was indeed glad to read the opening words of your letter this morning and could scarcely realize it would be true. The news was much too good after the past long months of anxiety and I fancy privation to very many poor creatures I cannot grudge the original share-holders their mites. Thanks to your forethought that I have not suffered. I never for a moment dreaded misfortune coming to a good railway in that manner, but always thought them a perfectly safe investment, experience is at all times a good but dear teacher. Will this years income due to me remain in the railway (?ad stock and how am I to repay the £100, because it must be done. I shall be very glad of the extra interest arising from the overdue interest in the railway, as I want to send Ella away to school.

Robert (1827-59) farmed at Stockdale. He married Isabella Wilson by whom he has a son, Stephen, a daughter (Isab) Ella, and a posthumous son, Robert. He died of T.B. a few months after the death of his father. Adam Brown appears to have been trustee for his wife and children and according to surviving letters, Mrs Robert was inclined to be rather tiresome. She died in 1911 and is buried in Settle Churchyard with her husband and a two year old son of her son Robert.

£259.5.9. I saw Mr Geldard the other day he said he should recommend us to invest £250 in the ? North Western 5 per cent Debenture he considered it perfectly safe it is less interest but would it not be better than risking so much in the Railway? I shall be glad to hear your opinion. There is £230.2.2. accumulation of rents

Isabella lived in Birkenhead with her son Stephen and died there in May 1911. She is buried back in Settle with Robert. Their stone commemorates two year old grandson 'Robbie', the son of their second son Robert, who had emigrated to Melbourne, Australia. Little Robbie died in 1911 in Melbourne and is not in this grave – did Isabella ever meet him?



*In memory of Robert Hargraves who died at Stockdale on the 29th Octr 1859 aged 32 years, third son of Stephen and Isabella Hargraves of Rock House, Settle. Also of Isabella Jane Wilson, wife of the above named Robert Hargraves died on the 21st May 1911 aged 78 years. "Robbie" grandson of the above and son Robert and Alice Hargraves of Melbourne Australia died March 1911 aged 2 yrs. E24*



This account has been compiled as part of the Settle Graveyard Project. The project has recorded gravestone inscriptions, updated church records and researched the lives of those buried. The 'Old Settle' family tree on ancestry.co.uk includes all the families buried in the graveyard. The project is ongoing, and always welcomes queries, information and family knowledge on setterresearch@gmail.com. Latest news and events are on the Facebook page Settle Graveyard Project.

[A] Thanks to the descendants of this family for help with the compilation of this story, and family photos and letters from Ancestry.co.uk.

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