

Stephen Kitchener, gardener extraordinaire

Stephen Kitchener (Snr), born in 1795, and his wife Ann Hawkins worked as agricultural labourers in Berkshire. They'd be really proud if they knew what their descendants achieved over the years. Ann died in 1852, aged 63, but Stephen lived until the age of 79. Six months before he died in 1874, Stephen found himself in Wantage Workhouse, probably as it provided the only medical care available for working class people. Son John Kitchener, a carpenter and wheelwright, was summoned to court for failure to contribute to Stephen's care [1]. Naughty John. This may have been because son John was born before Stephen's marriage to Ann Hawkins so may not have been his son at all.

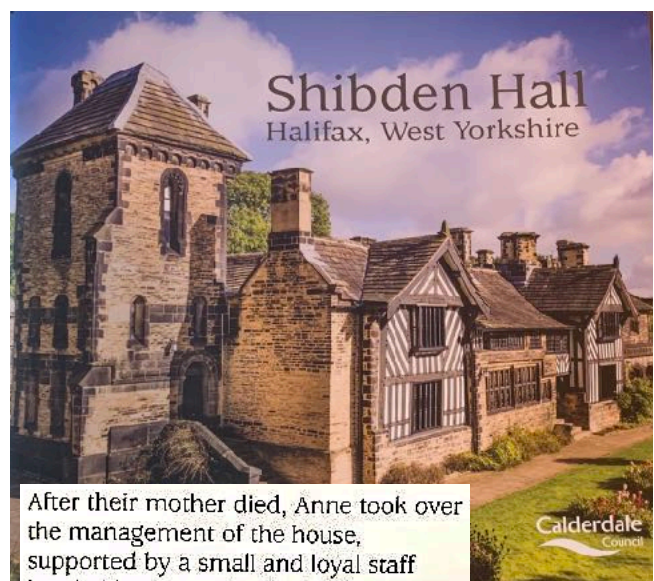
days' imprisonment and contract to be dissolved.—John Kitchener, of Ock Street, Abingdon, was summoned to show cause why an order should not be made on him for the support of his father, Stephen Kitchener, who is an inmate of the Wantage Union Workhouse. An order was made for 1s. per week.—Arthur Johnson was sum-

Stephen and Ann's son William Kitchener became a blacksmith. He married Jane Greenaway and they had children Stephen, Louisa Ann and John. William died a year after youngest son John's birth, aged just 36. Jane brought up the children earning money as a dressmaker but died in 1871, aged 46, when John was 16. Initially John and Stephen found jobs as agricultural labourers in Berkshire and Louisa Ann found a job in domestic service for a naval officer in Southampton. During the 1870s Louisa Ann found a position as a housemaid to the Lister family at Shibden Hall, near Halifax. By 1911 Louisa Ann had become the cook and is even referred to in the Shibden Hall tourist guide, described as 'Mrs Kitchener', the courtesy name given to cooks, regardless of marital status. Louisa Ann remained in post for the best part of 50 years until she died in 1925, aged 73. That's some long service award. Louisa Ann's position at Shibden Hall was to provide employment opportunities for two other women in this family and a bit of matchmaking, as we shall see. Louisa Ann left a substantial estate, worth £50,000 at today's value, half of which went to her brother John and the other half split equally between the children of brother Stephen who had predeceased her [ph8].



Shibden Hall, originally dated 1420, was the home of the Lister family from 1615-1926. The Lister family were wealthy mill-owners and cloth merchants, the most famous resident being Anne Lister 1791-1840. Anne Lister kept detailed, coded diaries about her life including her relationship with several women including wealthy heiress Miss Ann Walker. Anne made extensive improvements to the property, many of which were paid for with Ann Walker's fortune. Anne Lister [ph2] is described as having a 'masculine appearance', dressed entirely in black, contributing to her nickname Gentleman Jack. She took part in many activities that were not perceived as the norm for women of the time, such as owning a colliery.

Anne's diary code featured a combination of algebra and Ancient Greek. It was deciphered by John Lister, the son of another John Lister, a distant relation and Anne's physician, who had taken over the hall after Anne Walker,



Settle Graveyard Project

'a lunatic lady', had died. John (Jnr) Lister was a barrister, became a JP in Halifax and was a founder of the Labour Party, being friends with Ramsay McDonald, the first Labour Prime Minister. Having decoded the diaries John hid them behind a panel at Shibden Hall. Upon his death, John donated the Hall to Halifax Corporation who re-discovered the diaries and opened the building as a museum.

It's an interesting coincidence that John Lister (Jnr) and his sister Anne were educated with the help of a governess, *Alphonsine Sarah Jarry*, who moved to Settle with her sister during the 1850s and lived a life of relative luxury at Fern Hill on Constitution Hill. Is it possible that, despite the difference in their classes, the Jarry sisters and Kitcheners knew of the Shibden link they shared? What would they all have thought if they knew Shibden Hall would be featured in the BBC series 'Gentleman Jack' all these years later?

During the 1870s younger brother John Kitchener moved up to Stainforth to work in the quarries. In 1878 he married **Esther Hornby**, the fourth daughter of **William Hornby**, the landlord at the Golden Lion Inn in Horton-in-Ribblesdale. Esther's father William had quite a rough and tumble approach to innkeeping, found guilty of assaulting PC **Gawthrop**, for which he was fined 13 shillings and having thefts by his lodgers. He had to thank *PC Whincup* and watchmaker *Thomas Leeming* for their help in retrieving the watch [2]. Eventually, like so many other innkeepers, William was later declared bankrupt and became a grocer.

Unfortunately, Esther died a year after their wedding, presumably due to childbirth issues but was remembered with a fine memorial stone in Stainforth graveyard.



In loving remembrance of Esther Kitchener, the beloved wife of John Kitchener of Stainforth who died July 11th 1879, aged 25 years. Mourn not for me, my time is past. I loved you while my life did last. Yet think of me and pity take, and love the Lord for my sake.

John continued to live with his in-laws, now in Stainforth, after Esther's death. Two years later he married *Sarah Procter* [ph3] the illegitimate daughter of *Mary Procter* who was the aunt of *James Procter*, 'the people's tailor', also in the graveyard. After Sarah's marriage to John, Mary lived with them for the rest of her life. Despite this, Sarah had six children to add to her son *Jack Procter* who had been born before the marriage. Sarah and John are buried together at Stainforth, next to Esther's grave plot.



In loving memory of John Kitchener, died Jan 9th 1928, aged 73 years. Also Sarah, his beloved wife, died Feb 13th 1923, aged 69 years.

Sarah's son Jack continued to work in the quarries and had a family with *Amy Bullock* in Settle. Their infant children *Jack* and *Amy* are buried in the unmarked *Old EX7*. Three daughters *Margaret (Kitchener) Oldfield*, *Jane (Kitchener) Allen* and *Annie (Kitchener) Howarth* had a lovely photo taken [ph3]. *Margaret* worked as a cook at Shibden Hall before meeting her husband *Fred Oldfield*, a porter and they stayed in Halifax.



house, and found the defendant and two persons. No sooner did the landlord see the policeman than he sprang to his feet, exclaiming, "I'll let you know that you have no business here," and seized him by the shoulders and ejected him from the house. Having accomplished this feat he told the constable that he had no right to enter his habitation at any time. The policeman then told him that he would report him for obstructing him in the execution of his duty, when the landlord said he might do what he liked. The defendant, who was not present, was fined 13s, which with costs amounted to £1.

before J. W. Farrer and C. Ingleby, Esqrs., when Thos. Leeming, watch and clock maker, Settle, deposed: The watch produced he had repaired for Jane Hornby five or six times, and that he knew it by certain marks upon the shell.—Committed for trial at the sessions at Wakefield, to be held on the 28th inst.



Settle Graveyard Project

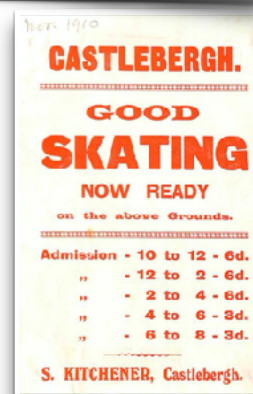
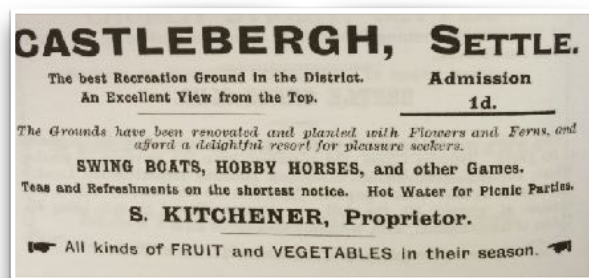
Meanwhile elder brother **Stephen Kitchener** had moved to Queensbury, Halifax near sister Louisa Ann and worked as a labourer. There, in 1876, he married **Emily Catlin**, a labourer's daughter and they had three daughters and six sons. Within two years they had moved to Settle and Stephen worked in the Langcliffe quarries, alongside his brother John. They lived at Willywood (now Willow Wood) cottages in Langcliffe. In 1891 Stephen and brother John were the 'principal prize-takers' in the Langcliffe Flower Show [4]. **Timothy Tooley Green**, the gardener at Whitefriars and Ashfield estates in Settle, provided plants 'for effect'.



The cottages at Willywood had been built and owned by Craven Lime works since 1872. The quarry owners imposed strict rules on those occupying the cottages including having to make their own repairs and not being allowed to belong to a trade union. In 1902 a long and bitter dispute erupted over tenancy of these cottages, ending with the forced eviction of several families. Stephen managed to move to Settle before the worst of this. He lived in Craven Cottages and then in Castle Hill in the bottom of the row of three houses, opposite the existing ones, which were demolished in the 1960s. Shoemaker **Robert Brown** had previously lived there.

In 1898, in his 40s, Stephen chose a different path to become a greengrocer and 'an ornate gardener'. Stephen had bought the business running the amusements at Castleberg [LSA] from 80 year old widow **Mary Taylor** in March 1898 complete with extensive facilities, albeit many of them broken. They included:

- a pay hut and workshed at the entrance
- a bowling green, barns, greenhouse
- 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 joiner and 'licensed valuer' **Joseph Bell** on Chapel Hill to be worth £15 12s and 6d. For admission of one penny, Stephen advertised renovations, new flowers and ferns and teas and refreshments at short notice. There was even hot water for picnic parties. This was a successful business [ph4]. Stephen even offered skating! [ph5] "It was popular on Good Friday. They charged a penny for admission. You could go on swings and hobby horses but you had to push them. There was a see-saw and you could buy a cup of tea"[CH].



Settle Graveyard Project

Previous managers of the site were **Nancy Beecroft**, daughter of **William Beecroft**, the oldest person in the Ancient graveyard, until her death in 1862. The spirited management of **James Hardacre**, [SC] added a hobby horse to the amusements and a hut to play board and card games. After James' death in the 1870s, the elderly **Mrs Margaret (Wilson) Birkett** held the reins until the 1880s when clogger **John Taylor** and his wife **Mary (Tomlinson) Taylor** took over.

CASTLEBERGH.—This capital place of amusement and recreation is likely to become more popular than ever under the spirited management of Mr Hardacre. The last addition to the stock of amusements is a hobby horse with seats and swings for a dozen young Jehus who 'keep the mill going' with great zest. We also noticed a neat little hut in which the more staid frequenters of the place may enjoy a quiet game at Draughts, Steeple chase, Dominoes, Fox and Geese, & Whist. The terms for admission are within reach of the poorest. A key to admit a Family for a whole year may be had for 2s., or a monthly ticket to admit one person may be had for 6d. and the single admission is only one penny. As the fair dates from the 1st of May, we urge upon every head of a family to procure a key at once, and thus be able to take frequent advantage of such a healthy place of resort.

Emily died in 1894, aged 40, after the birth of her youngest child, also named Emily. Stephen died 25 years later in 1919, aged 69. They are buried in the unmarked grave CX42 with spinster daughters **Edith Hilda** and **Elizabeth Louisa**. Eldest child **Elizabeth Louisa (Lou)** remained a spinster living with her parents and helping to run the recreation ground. When she was 22 Louisa had a son, **Edwin Kitchener**, who was brought up by Stephen as a son of his own. Lou continued to run the recreation ground, albeit with a price increase to two pence [ph5]. Lou moved to the little cottage opposite the entrance to Castlebergh Garden and from there, she also sold the Sunday Chronicle, one of just two outlets in Settle selling Sunday papers. The News of the World was sold in Kirkgate. An operational roundabout was found in the recreation ground during WW2.

By 1949, when Lou was 72, the recreation ground was falling into disrepair and there were few visitors. The Dawson family of Langcliffe Hall, who rented Castlebergh recreation ground land to Lou for £10 a year, decided to donate it to the local council. However, the local council was not interested as it was in such a poor state and regarded as a liability [4]! Poor old Lou, 'tall, with a pale, lined face and thick dark hair' decided to retire. She died the following year. How very sad. Lou and her father had run the Castlebergh Recreations for over 50 years.

What happened to the rest of Stephen and Emily's children? They had two sons called **Stephen William**



Kitchener, the first dying, aged four, in 1882 — he is buried in Giggleswick graveyard. From the age of 12, the second **Stephen William (Billy) Kitchener** [ph7] became a gardener working for the Dawson family at Langcliffe Hall and, with a break only for war service, worked there for 70 years. He was still working at the age of 82 when he was forced to retire after an accident. Apparently he was a good billiards player. He married **Elizabeth Ann Wright** and they had two children. Stephen lived to the age of 87, still in West View, Langcliffe [A]. Son **Ernest (Kit) Kitchener** was apprenticed to the photographer **Anthony Horner** before being called up into the RAF during the Second World War where he served in a Photographics Section. After the war he

CASTLEBERGH RECREATION GROUND.

THESE Grounds have recently been renovated and planted with flowers and ferns, affording a delightful resort for pleasure seekers.

Swings, Hobby Horses and other Games. Hot Water for Picnic Parties provided at moderate Charges.

ADMISSION. 2d.

L. KITCHENER, CASTLE HILL, SETTLE.

"KEY KEPT HERE"

A sign like an inn sign swings above her cottage door, inscribed: "L. Kitchener, Castlebergh key kept here."

Opposite her cottage there is a high white wall, and in the wall a little door. For the price of 2d. Mrs. Kitchener will unlock the door, and you are free to roam the wood and climb the face of Castlebergh.

"But times have changed," she says. "This was a show place once and people came from miles around. I don't get many now."

Tall, with a pale, lined face and thick dark hair, she clasped her hands and sighed. "And half of those who climb the cliff don't play the game," she said. "They go round by the hill or mount the wall to save their tuppences—that's trespassing."

So Mrs. Kitchener is joining the ranks of the majority and by autumn she too will be washing her hands of Castlebergh. After guarding it for 55 years, she has given notice that she intends to retire.

GREATER GLORY

There is little to see in the wood to-day, although formerly your 2d. admission fee entitled you to play on the see-saws, the swings and the hobby-horses. And there was a tiny refreshment room and sweet shop run by Mrs. Kitchener. Only the huts remain. Everything else has been dismantled.

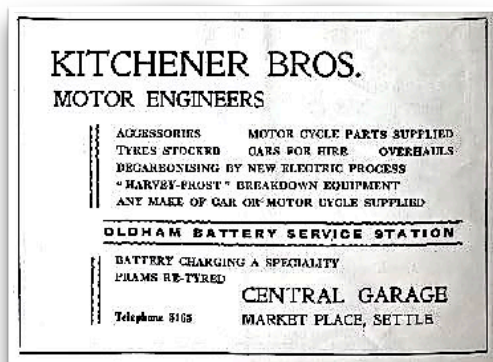
Settle Graveyard Project

worked for what became British Aerospace at Warton near Preston as ultimately Head of Photographics. He lived at Lytham St Annes.

Daughter **Kathleen Kitchener** had a poem about the story of Arachne and Minerva published in the 1919 school magazine. Arachne was a beautiful peasant and boasted she was a better spinner than Minerva, an old hag who took it upon herself to bring her down a peg or two. It included the verse, *Said Minerva to Arachne; 'You shall spin forever and I will change you into a spider, a warning to maidens of this land.'* Kathleen married **Anthony (Tant) Marklew** who worked on the roads. Kathleen worked at Barclays Bank, in the days when it was 'Martin's' Bank. Obviously, she had to give up work when she married as banks wouldn't employ married women in those days. After the children were old enough she worked as a secretary for the NWEB Electricity Office in Settle and then at John Roberts' Paper Mill. Later, in 1962, she became a secretary at Settle High School in the year when the Girls' High School became the first 'rural' comprehensive school in the County. Their sons **Stephen Marklew** worked at Barclays Bank and son **John Marklew** ran a building business in Settle which continues in the Sidings today. Kathleen's brother **Ernest (Bunny) Marklew** worked as a quarry manager for PW Spence before retiring to the High Street in Settle.

Then Minerva, very angry,
Challenged her; and they both spun;
The girl's was beauteous, but Minerva's
Was the best, when it was done.
Said Minerva to Arachne;
"You shall spin for ever, and
I will change you to a spider,
A warning to maidens of this land."
K. KITCHENER, FORM III.

Stephen and Emily's son **Arthur (Archie) Kitchener** had a knack with machinery and worked, initially, with his nephew Edwin, Lou's son, to run the Central Garage in the Market Place [ph4, 5]. At the time of the Coronation photo in 1937, Archie was servicing a van for TD Smith who ran the grocery shop at the corner of Cheapside. Archie was known to marshall the buses in the Market Place so as many as possible could park there. In 1924 Archie married **Nellie Atkinson** who was



the sister of **Dorothy Isabella Atkinson** who had married Archie's nephew Edwin the year before. Archie and Nellie had a son, **Arthur** and a daughter, **Marion** who was a star in the Settle Amateur Operatic Society. She performed in *The Gondoliers* in 1949 [ph4]. She later married **Hubert (Bert) Hemingway** who ran a grocer's shop on Duke Street, the current site of *Forage and Feast*, opposite Barclays Bank from which he sold the *Sunday Chronicle* once Lou had passed away. Bert was a member of Settle Golf Club for over 50 years.

Archie and Nellie were buried in Giggleswick graveyard. The garage was bought out by **Chris Ellis** and is now the 'Car and Kitchen' shop, appropriately.



Settle Graveyard Project

In loving memory of Arthur Kitchener died 8th October 1967 aged 77 years. Also Nellie his beloved wife died 1st February 1982 aged 83 years.



Stephen and Emily's son John Henry Kitchener married Annie Elizabeth Clark from Mexborough, Doncaster. There are no prizes for guessing how they met because, before marrying in 1913, Annie Elizabeth had spent at least 15 years working as a housemaid at Shibden Hall with Louisa Anne Kitchener, John Henry's aunt, and Margaret Kitchener, his cousin. John Henry and Annie Elizabeth lived in Lytham St Anne's where John Henry worked as a mechanic.

Shibden Hall	1								
			John Lister	Head	J	54		Living on own	Do
			Anne Lister	Sister	J	29		Do	Do
			Louisa Kitchener	Servant	J	49		Housemaid	Do
			Margaret Kitchener	Servant	J	19		Book	Do
			Annie Elizabeth, Blake	Servant	J	15		Housemaid	Do



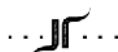
Youngest daughter Emily began her working life as a servant to Sydney Francis, an excise officer, at Jessamine Cottage at the foot of Constitution Hill. When she was 21, in 1915, Emily married Frank Bulcock, the eldest son of Thomas Allen Bulcock, Settle's Quarter Master Sergeant, and his wife Rose Ann Cokell. Frank, a corporal in the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment, died from wounds received on the Western Front just six months later [ph6]. The Bulcock and Cokell families suffered more than their fair share of casualties in the war.



Three years later Emily married Herbert Edmondson, a draper's assistant known as 'Bow' because of his bow ties, who also performed for the Settle Amateur Operatic Society [ph4]. Herbert's first wife, Hilda Moyle, had died at the birth of a daughter, another Hilda. Herbert and Emily had four further children. Herbert and both wives are buried in the plot Old H16. Emily lived to the age of 88.



In Loving Memory of Herbert Edmondson, 1884 - 1973, Also Hilda his wife, 1892 - 1915, also Emily his wife, 1894 - 1982.



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.

The life stories of people with italicised names have been researched as part of the graveyard project and 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'.

Thanks to descendant Stephen Marklew and John and Helen Reid for their help with the compilation of this story. Illustrations kindly provided by Teresa Gordon.

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Berkshire Chronicle, 2 Lancaster Guardian, 3 – Kendal Mercury, 4 – Yorkshire Post

ph1 – photo credited to museums.calderdale.gov.uk, ph2 – Wikipedia, public domain, ph3 – photo credited to family descendants on ancestry.co.uk, username Darrel_Oldfield, ph4 – credited to the Back in Settle Facebook site, ph5 – with the kind permission of John Reid, ph6 – credited to Craven's Part in

Settle Graveyard Project

the Great War, ph7 – with thanks to the North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust, ph8 – kindly provided by descendant Stephen Marklew

A – credited to Langcliffe, Glimpses of a Dales Village

LSA - Lambert's Settle Almanac, 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