Henry Snell, a respectable man?

Henry Snell, born in 1792, was the only surviving child of **Robert Snell** and his wife **Mary Sclator**. His grandfather lived in the toll house opposite Long Preston bridge. On Christmas Day 1813, Henry married **Sarah Parker**, the sister of the successful, yet unlucky farmer and builder, *Stephen Parker*. Sarah was only 20 so had to have the consent of her father to marry. Sarah had at least eight children but died, aged 47, in 1840 when the youngest child, Henry, was nine.

Henry (Snr) owned his business at the corner property opposite the Folly at the end of Chapel Square. Henry was one of 21 tailors listed in the 1851 census in Settle town.

Henry led an alcohol free life until the ripe old age of 90 which 'proved that teetotalism did not kill people' [1]. Henry was regarded as a stalwart of Temperance principles and 'the pioneer of the Total Abstinence movement in Settle', which some found amusing [CH]. The regular 'Temperance Society' rules stated a maximum of one glass of ale per day, but Henry felt there was more benefit to have none. He heard of a man in Bradford who would issue a 'Temperance Pledge' card to those who would commit to an alcohol free life. Allegedly the man in Bradford hadn't got any cards so Henry then walked to Leeds and Manchester to get his card and then set up a total abstinence society.

He trudged on to Leeds to meet with further disappointment, and learnt that the card could be obtained in Manchester. Later on he walked to Manchester and succeeded in obtaining a "Pledge Card" of which he was very proud. to the fact that the late Mr. Henry Snell, of Settle, "though a tectotaller," had lived to the patriarchal age of ninety-one, whilst Sir Edward Baines and other professed total abstainers had reached advanced ages, which at all events proved that tee ota'ism did not kill people. The following programme was then gone

It was a pleasure to be reminded of the "stalwarts" of temperance principles, but I missed the name of Henry Snell, who was really the pioneer of the "Total abstinence" movement in Settle. There existed over 60 years ago a "Temperance" Society in Settle, whose rules fixed the maximum quantity of ale that any member might consume at one glass per day! Henry Snell was a member of this Speiety and, having found benefit by reducing the supply per day, conceived the idea of "doing without" altogether. During his

things of interest. Mr. Snell and his tomperance work was amusing; it brought to mind the Band of Hope days. The Band of Hope

Being convinced that his principle of "Total Abstinence" was good Henry Snell set to work to form a total abstinence society. Open airmeetings were held and in many ways the principles were spread through the town and neighbourhood. At one meeting in the market

'Settle Temperance Society' was in place by the 1830s. A national Church of England Temperance movement was established in 1862 so Settle Temperance supporters split into the CofE Temperance Society and the Settle Gospel Temperance Union. The CofE Society was made up many of the wealthy members of the community and some tradesmen. They were happy to drink alcohol during church services. The members of the Gospel Temperance Union were the non-

conformist members of Settle, together with a large working committee of people from all classes. This was a stricter organisation in temperance terms and this is where Henry was able to contribute. The Temperance Societies were incredibly popular, especially in the late 19th century. By the early 1900s there was also a Women's Temperance Association.

Obviously temperance principles were connected to the church but were not popular with everyone. In 1847 Henry was elected to the prestigious position of churchwarden at Giggleswick Church and promptly removed the alcohol from the Beating the Bounds celebration dinner which brought the traditional custom to an end [A].

This old custom was kept up until 1848. Beating the when it died an unnatural death. The Bounds. idea was to fix the bounds in the minds of the young. Every 12th of March a procession was formed in which rode or walked the parish officials, the Duke of Devonshire's bailiff, the school-boys, and any other persons who cared to take part in the demonstration. A halt was called at each parish terminus, and the boys, who were armed with sticks, thrashed the bounds; and then, to make the place and occasion memorable, they thrashed each other. A similar custom still lingers here and there. But in the Giggleswick case the old custom was starved to death. There had always been a good dinner provided at the Black Horse Hotel, and charged to the parish accounts. In 1847 Mr. Henry Snell, a stalwart temperance pioneer, was appointed churchwarden. Through him the supply of beer was knocked off. And then, as

Henry also had sympathies for the Wesleyan Church. In 1845 Henry was a Trustee and subscriber for the new Wesleyan Chapel at Rathmell. Henry, who was 'well known for perseverance in everything he undertakes' offered to raise £100 by his own personal endeavours to help offset debts at Langcliffe Wesleyan Chapel [1]. Henry provided accommodation for Rev T Haswell, the Wesleyan minister, in 'New Road' (Church Street). Unfortunately, it caught fire in 1853 and without a fire engine much damage was done. Even more unfortunately, it was uninsured [1].

SETTLE.

LANGCLIFFE WESLEYAN CHAPEL -This place of worship, erected only a very few years ago, has since become so much burdened with debt that until recently a sale of the premises to pay outstanding liabilities appeared to be an almost inevitable consequence. To avoid this however, a few friends lately met and determined to try to remove, or at all events to lessen the chapel debt by other means and towards accomplishing that object Mr. Henry Snell, who is well known for perseverance in every thing he undertakes, voluntarily offered as a start to raise £100 by his own personal endeavours. Since then Mr. Snell has performed two thirds of his task, and we have no doubt that by the continuance of his praiseworthy exertions he will very shortly have completed it. In furtherance of the object in view a public

SETTLE.

FIRE.— At about half-past 7 a.m., on Saturday last, an alarming fire broke out at Settle, in a dwelling-house, occupied by the Rev. T. Has-well, Wesleyan minister. A vast crowd of per-sons soon collected on the spot, but notwithstand-ing all possible well directed exertions, the fire mention of the spot. The solution of the set of the s was not conquered until after 10 o'clock. The house is now a mere shell, and very considerable loss has been sustained by the family as well as in circuit property. Happily, however, no lives were lost or limbs broken. It seems certain from what we can learn, that the fire originated from what we can learn, that the fire originated in one of the sleeping rooms in the garret, though the cause remains a mystery. Much less damage would have been done had there been fire plugs or an engine at hand, but we regret to say that Settle, though well supplied with water, possesses nothing of this kind. The premises were not in-sured, and belong to Mr. Henry Snell, of this town. Much kind and generous sympathy has town. Much kind and generous sympathy has been manifested in behalf of the sufferers.

If more proof of Henry's credentials were required, he was appointed land agent to the Duke of Devonshire, who owned a vast proportion of land in the area [1]. Henry had the immense responsibility of managing the Duke's land and would have been rewarded handsomely, of course.

SETTLE MARKET DAY .- Mr. Henry Snell, the venenable agent to the Duke of Devonshire, has issued a command that Monday next must be observed as the market day, in consequence of Christmas Day falling on Tuesday.

For some reason, in the 1850s Henry bought a ship's figure head 'which represented some warrior' at Barrow and it was bolted onto Castleberg Rock which was used as a leisure area. It caused some confusion for the new PC Lindsay, much to the amusement of local youth [CH].

Henry was on the Procession Committee and the Tea Committee organising celebrations for the Royal Wedding of Albert Edward to Princess Alexandria in March 1863. He worked with Thomas Oates, a local shoe-maker and letter carrier.

So, he was a good man, wasn't he?

Despite being one of Settle's well known and respected figures, it appears that Henry also had a bit of a dark side. In 1858, aged 66, Henry had an altercation with PC Lindsay which may or may not have had anything to do with the Castleberg figurehead incident [SC].

DEATH OF AN ULD TOWNSMAN. - A well known figure disappeared from our midst on Tuesday morning last in the person of Mr. Henry Snell, draper, who had reached the ripe age of ninety. For many years de-ceased acted as the agent of the Duke of Devonshire, and was one of the oldest inhabitants of Settle.

> When the police force came into being, Constable Lindsay lived at Giggleswick, and on one occasion he was informed that a desperate character was hiding on a hay-mow where Settle Post Office now stands. It seems that Henry Snell had bought a

desperate character was mung on a hay-mow where Settle Post Office now stands. It seems that Henry Snell had bought a ship's figure-head at Barrow which repre-sented some great warrior, and for con-venience it was put into the barn previous to its being bolted into Castleberg Rock. Armed with dark lantern and truncheon our Constable went to the place and ordered the miscreant (whose head only was visible) to "come down," and as he took no notice a ladder was brought in and our hero ascended in the dim light saying "I've met with stupid beggars like you before and I shall pull you down," at the same time quieting him with a blow on the head which resounding in a manner unlike that of the human skull, provoking roars of laughter from the young dogs who had laid the information and formed an admiring audience. audience. amont happoned 3. 34

P. C. W. Lindsay v. Snell. This complaint was for assault and obstruction in his duty, and arose out of the Policeman disturbing some little boys playing at marbles in the street near Snell's house. Lindsay charged Snell with profane swearing, and shaking his fist in his face. But produced no corroborative testimony altho' there were numbers present. Snell denied it in toto and produced two witnesses who proved that not an oath was sworn nor any attempt to strike made. Case consequently dismissed.

It got worse. In 1863 Henry, aged 72, was alleged to be the father of John Robert Buck, the son of Elizabeth (Betty) Buck, a local 17 year old cotton weaver [1, SC]. Betty's case was supported by her sister Agnes and another witness. Henry's defence solicitor was appalled that a charge of so gross a nature had been brought against 'a man of Mr Snell's years and apparent station.' Henry vigorously denied the claim and appealed but was fined accordingly. The son died shortly afterwards, and Betty moved away to Carlton, near Selby with her family.

SETTLE FETTY SESSIONS.—These sessions, were held on Tuesday last, before J. Stansfield (chairman), Wm. Robinson, J. Birkbeck, and C. Ingleby, Esq. The court, which was densely crowded, was engaged upwards of two hours in hearing an affiliation case, in which a girl named Elizabeth Buck, residing at Settle, was complainant, and Mr. Henry Snell, of the same place, defendant. Mr. C. T. Clark, of Lancaster, appeared on behalf of the complainant, and the defendant was represented by Mr. Middleton, barrister, Leeds, instructed by Mr. Henry Robinson. The Bench made an order of 2s. per week and costs, together with the usual extra payments. The defendant, through his counsel, gave notice of his intention to appeal against the decision at the next general quarter sessions to be held for the

In the same petty sessions, it was reported that Henry had also had an altercation with **Thomas Oates**, the fellow member of the Temperance Society who had worked with him on preparations for the Royal Wedding. In April 1863 Thomas put an advert in the paper apologising for slanderous expressions against Henry [SC]. It was witnessed by Henry Duncan Robinson.

The following edition contained a report of a court case which explained what this was about. Thomas took Henry to court for spitting at him. Henry denied it 'but acknowledged the apparent motion' and 'admitted having made a noise with his mouth whilst passing' Henry was fined 5 shillings.

West Riding.— Oates v. Snell.—This was an assault case. Mr. Oates stated that he was the letter carrier, and when passing down Chapel-street, in Settle, on Friday, the 24th ult., he saw the defendant coming up the street from an opposite direction. Not being on very good terms with the defendant he endeavoured to avoid coming in contact with him. However, the defendant persisted in passing close by him, and in doing so spit in his face. Mr. Oates called Thomas Ellison, a butcher at Settle, who corroborated his statement. In reply to the Bench, Mr. Snell denied the charge of spitting in complainant's face, and said he would soorn such a trick. He admitted having made a noise with his mouth whilst passing Mr. Oates, against whom he could not refrain from expressing his indignation in consequence of the repeated annovances exhibited by Mr. Oates to himself and different members of his family. The Bench inflicted a penalty of 54, and costs.

Unsurprisingly, following the revelations of Betty Buck, Thomas retracted his apology and an appeal was raised to pay his costs [1,SC].

SETTLE PETTY SESSIONS.—At the Court House, Settle, before G. Stansfeld, (Chairman), W. Robinson, J. Birkbeck, and C. Ingleby, Esqrs., on Tuesday, April 28th, Elizabeth Buck applied for an order against Henry Snell for the maintenance of an illegitimate child of which she alleged he was the father. Mr. Clark appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Middleton, instructed by Mr. H. Robinson, for the defendant. The witnesses were sent out of Court at the request of defendant's counsel. Mr. Clark after opening the case called upon the applicant to make her statement The plaintiff's case was supported by her sister and another witness. Mr. Middleton did not call any witnesses for the defence, but made a vigorous appeal to the bench, pleading the insufficiency of evidence, of the character which had been brought before them, to establish a charge of so gross a nature against a man of Mr. Snell's years and apparent station. After a short consultation the chairman announced the decision of the bench to make an order of 2s. per week with the usual extras for midwife, &c., and costs of obtaining order, except counsel's fees. Mr. Middleton on behalf of defendant gave notice to plaintiff of an appeal to the Quarter Sessions

I hereby declare that I am innocent of the charge of any criminal connection with Elizabeth Buck, and that the order might be made with equal justice on any other man. I have no knowledge of the affair and can only bear the wrong, but with the satisfaction of a clear conscience.

April 30th, 1863.

HENRY SNELL.

I the undersigned Thomas Oates of Settle, Shoemakerhaving uttered certain slanderous expressions affecting the character and reputation of MR. HENRY SNELL, do now publicly apologise for having uttered the same. I give my consent to the said Henry Snell to make whatever use of this document he may think proper. As witness my hand this 26th day of March, 1863.

THOMAS OATES. Witness, H. DUNCAN ROBINSON.

OATES v. SNELL.-Mr. H. Snell appeared to answer a charge of assault brought against him by Mr. T. Oates. The plaintiff stated that on Friday forenoon, when returning from his round as Letter Carrier, he met Mr. H. Snell in Chapel Street. Witness endeavoured to avoid him in passing, but defendant came towards him and spat in his face. Mr, T. Ellison, who saw the affair at a short distance, corroborated the plaintiff's statement. Defendant denied the actual spitting but acknowledged the apparent motion. He was fined 5s. and costs.

NOTICE.

To the Readers of the Settle Chronicle.

My dear fellow-townsmen and friends.—You were no doubt surprised upon seeing in the Settle Chronicle for April, an advertisement headed "I Thomas Oates, of Settle, having uttered certain slanderous expressions effecting the character and reputation of Mr. Henry Snell, &c." This was perhaps an unwise act. The result of the application to the Magistrates last Tuesday for an order against Mr. Henry Snell for the maintenance of her illegitimate child by Elizabeth Buck, clears me from the imputation of unjustly slandering Mr. Snell's character. My only desire was to see right maintained against might. Heigho ! for fair play!

THOMAS OATES.

In consequence of a notice of Appeal to the Quarter Sessions having been given to Elizabeth Buck by Mr. H. Snell's counsel, subscriptions will be received towards defraying the expenses of the suit by Thomas Oates, Settle.

In 1872 Henry got into more trouble, damaging Joseph Gill's tub on the wall of his house. Henry had previously sold the house to Joseph.

Joseph Gill summoned Heary Snell for doing wilful damage to a tub belonging to complainant, by knocking it off a wall. It appeared that the defendant

Perhaps Henry wasn't such a nice man after all.

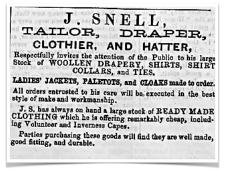
Henry was buried in Giggleswick graveyard with his wife and three unmarried children Robert, William and Rebecca. Son Robert was thought to have put graffiti 'R Snell' inside the Victoria cave system.

In memory of Henry Snell of Settle who died Nov. 14th 1882 aged 90 years. Sarah Snell his wife who died Jan. 28th 1840 aged 46 years. Robert Snell who died Jan. 26th 1871 aged 53 years. William Snell who died July 14th 1847 aged 18 years. Rebecca Snell who died April 3rd 1891 aged 74 years.

Henry and Sarah's other children?

Son John Snell continued the tailoring business [SC]. John married Settle draper's daughter *Ellen Furness*, at a Manchester Wesleyan Methodist Chapel. Unfortunately, Ellen died upon the birth of her first child, Sarah Eleanor Snell, in Ellen was buried with her parents and Barrow in Furness. siblings in the Ancient graveyard.







In loving remembrance of Laurence Furness who died Jany 17th 1854 and 67 years. Also of John Furness son of the above who died Dec 20th 1840,

(actually 1849) aged 18 years. Also Thomas Taylor son of the above who died Decr 30th 1858 aged 24 years.

Also Ellen Snell daughter of the above who died April 8th 1868 aged 49 years. Also of Robert Furness son of the above who died Oct 12 1868 aged 36 years. Safe in the arms of Jesus. Also of Margaret Furness wife of Laurence Furness who died Oct 21st 1877 aged 77 years, B13



By the next census, John lived back with his siblings and father in Chapel Square, raising young Sarah. She married Henry Ingham who was the bank manager of the Yorkshire Bank in Otley. He died from blood poisoning after a fall from his bike five months before 121. Their son John Snell Ingham was killed at the Somme, serving the Royal Fusiliers [ph1].

John Snell played an active life in Settle, being treasurer for the Mechanic's Institute and the Chair of Settle Temperance Society in 1861. When the 'Settle Temperance Society' split, John became a patron of the Settle Gospel Temperance Union.

MR. HENRY FNOHAM, OF OTLEY. Mr. Henry Ingham, of Grosvenor-terrace, Otley, and for upwards of twelve months manager at the Graven Bank, Otley, died at his residence on Satur-day morning. About last April he fell from his bigrale and hum his side. He area moderally attended day morning. About last April he fell from his bicycle and hurt his side. He was medically attended, but did not feel much the worse until about five weeks but hid hot feet much the worse until about hive weeks ago, It was then found blood-poisoning had set in, and this was eventually the cause of death. Mr. Ingham, who was in his 56th year, prior to taking up his position at Otley was cashier for a term of 18 years at the Craven Bank branch at Settle, and was highly respected at both places by his business acquaintances. highly respected at both places by his business acquaintances. He was a native of Giggleswick, and at one time acted as clerk to the Parish Obancil there. He was also secretary for some years to the Settle Gas Company. He passed from the Church of England to the Wesleyan body some time ago. He was a life-long teatotaler, and highly esteemed in his native district. He leaves a widow and three young children children.

MR. JOHN SNELL, SETTLE.

Mr. John Snell, of Settle, died on Sunday, after having attained the age of 80 years. In early life he was the leading tailor for Settle and the surrounding country districts, retiring from the business many years ago. At a youthful age he signed the tectoral pledge, and remained a steadfast supporter of the temperance propaganda to the last. His father, the late Mr. Henry Snell, likewise of Settle, who also lived to a very old age, was one of the few temperance enthusiasts who walled a distance of eighty miles-Sottle to Leeds, and back again-in order to take the niedge.

SETTLE TEMPERANCE SOCIETY. SETTLE TEMPERANCE SOCIETY. This Society, which has been in existance upwards of 30 years, held its ammal Meeting in the Mechanics' Hall, on Tuesday, Feb. 19th. There was an average attendance. Mr. J. Snell took the chair, and after the Report had been read and the accounts passed, the following speakers addressed the meeting, Rev. S. Compston, Messrs. T. A. Harvey, D. Ineson, H. Ineson, M. Graham, and the Chairman, Mr. J. Snell. The President, Treasurer and Secretary were re-elected, and M. Horner, T. A. Morphet, and J. Hodgson were added

John died in 1903, aged 80, having also, like his father benefitted from a teetotal life [2], but without a hint of misdemeanour. He is buried in Giggleswick graveyard in an unmarked grave.

Henry and Sarah's youngest daughter Sarah Blackburn Snell married Thomas Atkinson Morphet, the son of a coachman from Kirkby Lonsdale. While Sarah started on the production of at least eight children, Thomas started work as a post boy. However, the building of the Leeds to Lancaster line gave Thomas the chance to work on the railways, initially as a clerk at 'Settle' (Giggleswick) station,

SETTLE.

Two msn of great public utility have lately been taken away from their posts by the hand of death. Mr. Thomas A. Morphet, proprietor and driver of the 'bas plying between Settle Station and Settle, died on Sunday morning last, after a painful illness of eleven weeks, borns with great resignation ; and Mr. John T. Hartley, who has been a larryman in the employ of the Midland Railway Company nearly ever since the opening of Settla Station, was seized with an appletic fit whilst on his return to the station on Monday evening last, and died on Wednesday morning. Both persons discharged the duties of their stations with efficiency, and their removal is regretted by the public generally.

living at the station. Later he became a coal dealer based in Chapel Square which was a lucrative business.

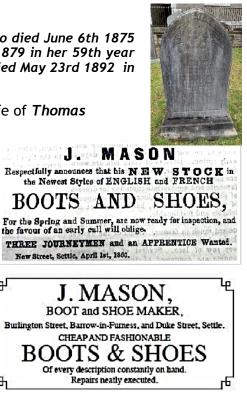
Thomas died, aged 65, in 1875 after a painful illness of 11 weeks, 'borne with great resignation' [1] and Sarah died in 1879. They are buried in the Zion Chapel grounds with their daughter Jane who had been the first wife of Henry Lord, the illegitimate son of Elizabeth Haining.

In Loving Remembrance of Thomas Atkinson Morphet of Settle who died June 6th 1875 in his 65th year also of Sarah his wife who died February 21st 1879 in her 59th year also of Jane daughter of the above and wife of Henry Lord who died May 23rd 1892 in her 44th year

Thomas and Sarah's second daughter Mary Ann was the first wife of Thomas *Twisleton*, the Yorkshire dialect poet, giving him at least 8

children, including a pair of twins, before she died aged 48. Daughter Isabella married grocer William Ralph and was the mother of the well known character **Percy Morphet Ralph**. William, Isabella and their daughter Jessie are buried in an unmarked grave Old BX47. Several other children emigrated to Australia.

Henry and Sarah Snell's eldest daughter Mary married John Knowles who became the station master at Bell Busk station. Their daughter Jane married William Hudson, nephew to unlucky Joseph Hudson, the long serving gardener for Rev Hogarth Swale. Daughter Elizabeth Snell married shoemaker John Mason [SC] and they took their large family to Barrow in Furness [ph4]. Youngest son Henry Snell was a gas fitter and plumber. He left Settle for an



apprenticeship in Leeds and finally put down roots in Liverpool with his family.

At the time of the first world war, Temperance had a second wave of populism, David Lloyd George saying in 1915, 'Drink is doing us more damage in the war than all the German submarines put together' and 'Fighting Germany, Austria and Drink, and as far as I



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can see the greatest of these three deadly foes is Drink.' Temperance workers sprang into action and produced thousands of leaflets and posters and 'Don't Ask me to Take a Drink' pledge cards to be used for the duration of the war. The impact of this escalated when King George V was persuaded to support this. Delighted temperance campaigners printed 'Follow the King's Lead' in leaflets and posters and took to the streets to gain more converts [ph2,3].







This account has been compiled as part of the Settle Graveyard Project which has recorded gravestone inscriptions, updated church records and researched the lives of those buried. 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'.

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 - Lancaster Gazette, 2 - Leeds Mercury

A – On Foot Round Settle, George H Brown, 1896

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

ph1 — photo credited to 'Craven's Part in the Great War', ph2 — credited to 'The Workers Onward', ph3 — Temperance Pledge with the kind permission of descendant Hilary Brown, ph4 — credited to the Back in Settle Facebook site.