

The Hartleys at the Golden Lion Inn

The Golden Lion Inn, established in the reign of Charles II, has been regarded as Settle's premier hostelry and coaching inn, still operating over 350 years later. In 1826 innkeeper **Robert Hartley** was a witness in the scandalous case of the abduction of **Ellen Turner**, whose captor **Edward Gibbon Wakefield** exchanged horses at the Golden Lion and that's a separate story. After the excitement of the case subsided, life continued as normal back in the Golden Lion, a hub of activity for socialising, business, meetings, auctions, and bankruptcy hearings. From 1820 until about 1858, meetings of The Oyster Club were held in the Golden Lion. Every fortnight a supper of oysters and cheese, pie and ale was followed by lively debates for the gentlemen of the town. Very nice.

In 1825, local diarist **William Lodge Paley** reported that the tax commissioners were appointing assessors whilst he had dinner at the Golden Lion [WLP]. In January 1826 William had to complain to Robert Hartley because his parcel hadn't been delivered on the day it arrived — 'it was shameful'!

On the evening of 13th January 1830 the Golden Lion was used to take offers on *'The Reversionary Interest in all that romantic and picturesque plot, piece or parcel of land and rock, called Castleberg or Castleberg Rock, now set out and used as a pleasure ground, subject to a lease thereof for 99 years, tab the yearly reserved rent of 6d, about 52 years whereof are yet to come.'* [B] The land below Castleberg Rock was used as a leisure ground for most of the 19th century - see **Kitchener**

On 17th February 1835 a meeting was called at the Golden Lion attended by **Rev Rowland Ingram**, the Headmaster of Giggleswick School, to discuss the matter of building a new church in Settle. Money was raised by subscription and, as a result, Holy Ascension Church was consecrated on 26th October 1838, the first new church built in the Craven district for over 300 years.


Historically, tithes were a form of taxation requiring one-tenth of the value of all agricultural produce to be paid annually to the local church by land owners. In 1836 this system was reviewed and the value of all land and properties was reassessed. Local valuers were appointed by local landowners - that would be a challenging job! On the 22nd February 1844 at 12 o'clock the Golden Lion hosted the meetings to appoint the valuers for Giggleswick, Settle and Rathmell. The documents produced provided an excellent historical resource.

In February 1845 plans were afoot to build the Leeds to Lancaster railway line, passing by Settle. William Lodge Paley attended a meeting, chaired by **Mr William Clayton**, in which plans for the new railway were discussed by a variety of both supportive and sceptical local landowners. William summarised that there were some good speeches in favour which were reported to the newspapers. A year later the Golden Lion was used to consider tenders for the

April 4.—Mr. Gray, traveller for Mr. Richardson, wrote asking my Cy. to dinner at Golden Lion and met Mr. Proctor who had been setting his brother George off by coach for America again. Went into Lion to dine at 1 o'clock. Hartleys were very busy with the commiss. for taxes, appointing assessors.

Jan. 11.—Call d at Hartleys to pay for last parcel by coach and was much grieved they had charged 1s. and 4d. for case from Leeds wh. they did not deliver the day it came and I told Mr. H. it was shameful. Talked with Mr. Howson

Feb. 25.—Saw in paper a list of shareholders in the Swaledale and Wensleydale bank wh. I copied out. Went to a railway meeting at Golden Lion from Skipton to Lancaster. Mr. Clayton in the chair, and Mr. Shorrocks described the


NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY.
CONTRACTS FOR EARTHWORK AND MASONRY.
PARTIES desirous of **CONTRACTING** for the execution of the **EARTHWORK AND MASONRY** of the **SETTLE** and **CLAPHAM** **CONTRACTS** of the North Western Railway, can see the Plans, Sections, and Specifications at the Engineer's Office, in Lancaster, after Thursday, December 24th.

Settle and Clapham contracts [3]. Unfortunately William Clayton went out of business in 1849 and his business was put up for auction, at the Golden Lion.

Robert Hartley was born in 1778 in Skipton, the eldest son of **John Hartley** and **Jane Johnson**. In 1811 in Kirkby Lonsdale, Robert married **Isabella Ruebottom** who came from Newby Bridge in the South Lake District. They stayed in Kirkby Lonsdale until arriving in Settle for the birth of their fourth son, **Robert Hartley** in 1817. They had seven sons and two daughters, although the first daughter, one of two daughters named **Jane Hartley**, died in infancy.

It's possible Robert and Isabella took over the Golden Lion from their arrival. Robert's mother died in Settle in 1818, aged 62 and his father 'Old Mr Hartley' in April 1829, aged 76 after a lengthy illness, apparently [WLP]. Less than a year later, Robert himself died, aged 51, a year after the birth of his youngest son **Henry Septimus Hartley**. Robert and his parents were buried in Giggleswick graveyard.

As a widow it was quite acceptable for Isabella to continue to run the Golden Lion and she did so for 35 years! She had a reputation as an excellent host. The Golden Lion became the preferred venue for the North Ribblesdale Agricultural Society's meetings and celebrations. In typical 19th century newspaper speak, *'Of the dinner itself it is impossible to speak too highly . . . The tables were loaded with an abundance of everything that could be desired, all served with the kindest care . . . In alluding to these matters we hope the respected hostess, Mrs Hartley will not think we pay her admirable management a mere idle compliment'* [1]. The chairman of the NRAS was **Walter Morrison**, MP, who lived at Malham Tarn Hall when he was not in London. He was remembered as having a preference for the Golden Lion. *'As a child, I remember, in the pre-motoring age, that Mr Morrison often would appear unexpectedly at Settle in the late evening. That contingency was always provided for as a room was permanently reserved for him at the Golden Lion Hotel. Early the next morning, his groom (Robert Battersby) would arrive with spare horses for the long six mile climb to his beloved mountain home.'*[5]

Isabella ran the Inn whilst bringing up eight children but had help from servants and family. Isabella was the daughter of **Thomas Ruebottom**, an innkeeper. Unfortunately Thomas' business was taken into administration in 1804 but the sale of his assets provided an interesting description of his lifestyle in Newby Bridge. He had to sell beds, a good clock and furniture, two good, neat Post Chaises, four excellent

April 22.—Old Mr. Hartley at Golden Lion is dead but has been long superannuated—Mons. Wrague has hurt his



For this occasion the dining room of the Golden Lion was laid out with four parallel tables and a cross table, and decorated with festoons of flowers, very gracefully arranged. Of the dinner itself it is impossible to speak too highly. As we

As a child, I remember, in the pre-motoring age, that Mr. Morrison often would appear unexpectedly at Settle in the late evening. That contingency was always provided for, as a room was permanently reserved for him at the Golden Lion Hotel. Early the next morning, his groom (the late Robert Battersby), would arrive with spare horses for the long six-mile uphill climb to his beloved mountain home—the home where Kingsley wrote the first chapter of "The Water Babies," and the home, often enriched by others, famous in the literary sphere.

Also I recall how Mr. Morrison would always call at the local tobacconist (the late Mr. C. F. Armistead) to purchase his favourite tobacco before returning to Town. When Mr. Morrison was very old and could no longer enjoy his usual mixture, it was skillfully "lightened" (unknown to the client) so that he could smoke in comfort!

horses and harness, two cows, two pigs, a variety of agricultural produce and a fine sailing boat [1] for some reason capitalised.

Isabella and her brothers **Thomas** and **Roger Ruebottom** were, therefore, well equipped to run the Golden Lion. Brother Thomas died in Settle, aged 42, in 1832, and was buried in Giggleswick graveyard. In census returns brother Roger, described as an 'innkeeper', lived next door to Isabella with his wife **Isabella Dugdale** from Malham. It seems Roger was an essential partner for his sister. When he died in 1865 Isabella, aged 73, retired. She was presented with silver plate tea and coffee services and cutlery by 72 of her friends as a token of their respect and esteem. The subscribers requested that, upon her death the gift should pass to her fourth son **Robert Hartley** of the North Western Hotel in Morecambe [SC]. Isabella died three years later in 1868, aged 76 and was buried with Robert at Giggleswick.

In remembrance of Robert Hartley who died Feb 20 1830 aged 52 years. Also of Isabella Hartley widow of the above who died June 24 1868 aged 77 years. (Robert was actually 51 and Isabella 76)

With all those children it is perhaps surprising that none took over the running of the Golden Lion. The next two innkeepers were **Thomas** and **Mary Wetherell** and then **Henry** and **Mary Armistead**. Towards the end of the 19th century the inn was sometimes known as Lion Hotel.

It seems fourth son Robert Hartley was the favourite and perhaps it was thought that he would take over the Golden Lion. He worked for his mother at the Golden Lion as the ostler, looking after the horses, so would have been very busy. But, in 1851, aged 34, Robert married 18 year old **Hannah Braithwaite Wilson**, [ph6a] the daughter of another innkeeper, who had come to Settle from Kendal to work as a servant for Isabella at the Golden Lion. Descendants of the family describe they eloped to marry in Manchester Cathedral and then set up business in Morecambe. Their choice of hostelry was impressive. The North Western Hotel on Morecambe seafront had been built three years earlier by the North Western Railway at the terminus for the Leeds to Lancaster 'Little North Western' railway. In those days the hotel had two storeys and 40 bedrooms [ph5]. In 1871 the railway was taken over by the Midland Railway and so the hotel became known as the Midland Hotel. It was replaced with the Art Deco building we know today in 1932.

Robert and Hannah ran a good business providing for travellers and the local community. In 1857, 'at the house

ALL the HOUSEHOLD GOODS and FURNITURE, late of him the said **Thomas Ruebottom**; consisting of beds, bedsteads, and hangings; a good clock and case, tables, chairs, a mangle, and a variety of kitchen and other furniture. Also, two good neat Post Chaises, four excellent Horses and Harness, two good Cows, two Pigs, a quantity of Malt, Barley, Potatoes, Hay, Straw, Manure, Carts, Wheels, Ploughs, Harrows, and other Husbandry Geer; also, a quantity of good HOPS, and a fine SAILING BOAT.

HARTLEY'S TESTIMONIAL.—The testimonial some time ago proposed to be given to Mrs. Hartley, late of the Lion Hotel, on her retirement from business, was presented to her on Tuesday the 4th ult., accompanied by the following address, beautifully inscribed on vellum:—"This testimonial of silver plate, consisting of tea pot, coffee pot, sugar basins, cream and milk ewers, forks and spoons, was presented to Mrs. Isabella Hartley, late of the Lion Hotel, Settle, by her friends, as a token of their respect and esteem, with a request that upon her death the same should descend as an heirloom to her son, Mr. Robert Hartley, of the North Western Hotel, Morecambe,—1865." Attached to the address are the names of the Subscribers, 72 in number.



of Mr Robert Hartley' an inquest was held into the death of thirteen men who drowned crossing Morecambe Bay between Ulverston and Arnside [3]. Robert and Hannah extended their property in 1865 and eventually retired in 1877. Robert died suddenly in 1884 whilst on a steamboat travelling with Hannah from Waterhead to Bowness in the Lake District. Hannah died 33 years later.

Robert and Isabella's eldest son was **John Johnson Hartley**, named after Robert's parents, born soon after their wedding. In 1839, John married **Mary Harger**, the daughter of **Joseph Harger**, the innkeeper of the Royal Oak in Settle. When she was just seven, in 1820 Mary embroidered a sampler [ph3]. The things you can do without TV as a distraction! John and Mary didn't have children.

John worked as an ironmonger and tinsmith, although seemed to have fingers in many pies including property, selling guns, and letting property, and an agent for selling agricultural machinery [sc]. In 1841 and 1842 John was a churchwarden, nominated by the pewholders at Holy Ascension Church, so was obviously held in high regard.

THE INQUEST
Was held on Monday morning, at ten o'clock, at the house of Mr. Robert Hartley, the North Western Hotel, Morecambe, and the first duty of the jury, after being sworn, was to view the bodies of the unfortunate men, a melancholy sight was here presented, nine fine-looking young men, who, but a few short hours before had been in the enjoyment of robust health, and in high spirits at the thoughts of meeting their friends and relatives, were laid in death; their relatives and friends who had come to identify their remains weeping by their sides.



A CARD.
JOHN HARTLEY,
Land Agent, Surveyor, Valuer, &c.,
SETTLE.

TO SPORTSMEN AND OTHERS.
ON SALE,
A newly invented
PATENT THREE BARREL GUN.
Containing Fowling piece and Rifle; admirably adapted for
Rock and Sea Fowl shooting, in addition to the usual appliances
of a Double Barrel Gun; on view.—Apply to
J. J. HARTLEY,
Ironmonger, Settle.

HARTLEY v. COWBURN.
The case was not defended. Mr. Martin and Mr. Overend were for plaintiff. Plaintiff, Mr. John Johnson Hartley, is an ironmonger at Settle, and defendant is a solicitor at the same place. This action was for a promissory note, value £425, with interest, dated 9th December, 1847. The signature of defendant was proved by Mr. Seed, clerk with Mr. Pearson, Kirby Lonsdale, and the jury brought in a verdict for £425, with £51 interest.

In 1850 John had to take the respected solicitor **Mr John Cowburn** to court to get him to honour a rather substantial promissory note to the value of £425 plus interest [1]. Oops. Mr Cowburn died five years later, aged 45, after a skating accident at Birkbeck Wier (near Anley) on the Ribble. In 1854, John let part of his business to Mr Robert Jones — perhaps that was more lucrative than doing the work himself?

In 1857, John bought property in the Market Place and Castle Hill from **Thomas Hardacre**. Thomas had recently gone bankrupt so John may have got a bargain. John ran his business in part of the property [ph2] next door to **Sylvester Cork's** wig shop and hairdresser. John's shop is currently used as a cycle shop. John rented other rooms back to Thomas Hardacre and some of the rooms at the bottom of Castle Hill to the Board of Guardians [sc]. The Board of Guardians made

GUARDIANS.—The Guardians have removed to their new room situate in Back Lane, opposite the entrance to Rock House. The Board room is situated on the ground floor to the right hand of the entrance, and is well lighted from back and front; to the left is a waiting room seated round for Paupers, this is a great convenience for the poor who frequently during the winter had to stand in the lobby or cluster round the outer door whilst their cases were called upon. Opposite the outer entrance is a stair case which conducts to a very well lighted and ventilated Committee room, the size of and over the Board room, and which it appeared to us might have been the better Board room if the ascent of stairs was not too inconvenient for aged and infirm applicants; next to the Guardians' rooms is a very nice cottage dwelling, with pantry, scullery, three bedrooms, and water closet, which last by the bye would seem to be a want in the premises occupied by the Guardians. The whole of the buildings have, if we may use the term, been translated in a very tasteful style out of the two old cottages which for the last two centuries formed the left side of the bottom of back lane.

alterations and moved into the properties during the following year. However, the first floor Committee Room was criticised for the lack of accessibility problems for the old and infirm, the very people it was intending to provide for.

Stansfield, Esq., being in the chair. The complaint was made by Mr Anthony Bently, the surveyor of the highways of Settle, against Mr John Johnson Hartley, of Settle, ironmonger, under the 72nd section of the highway act, for suffering filth and other offensive matter to run upon the highway. Mr Henry Robinson appeared in support of the information, and called several witnesses who proved that the defendant had lately turned the sewer from his water closets into a drain which had been several years ago constructed by the surveyor of the highways for the purpose of carrying off the surplus water from the streets, and that the consequence of such sewage being turned into the drain was that it became choked up. It appeared also from the evidence that the drain was constructed to pass water simply, because it terminated at its lower end in a sand or gravel bed. Mr Hartley Baldwin,

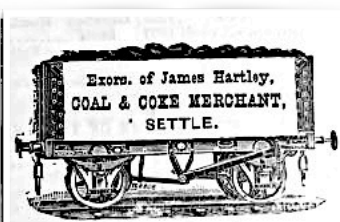
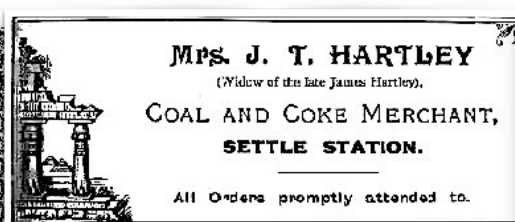
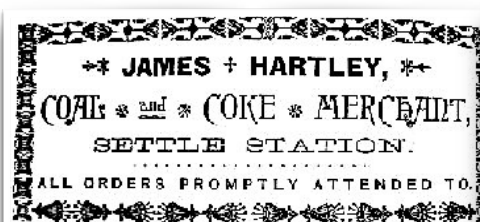


In 1860, John used his entrepreneurial spirit to divert the waste from his water closet down a street water drain which emptied out onto gravel [2]. Unsurprisingly, the drain blocked up. Not John's smartest move. Incredibly, he got away with a fine of 1 shilling which may reflect his good reputation in the town, or the lack of regard to hygiene in the 1860s.

John and Mary are buried with John's unmarried brother **William Hartley** and a nephew **Robert Hartley**, the son of John's brother **Thomas Hartley** who worked as a draper in London. Thomas had at least 13 children, including Robert who was, seemingly, visiting Settle at the time of his death.

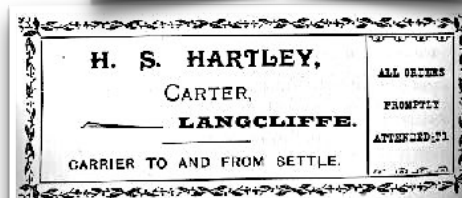
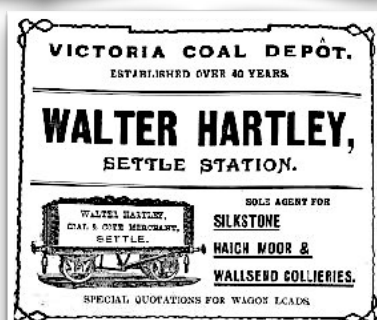


Sacred to the memory of John Johnson Hartley who died May 27th 1864 aged 53, and Mary, wife of the above who died October 27th 1864 aged 50 years. Also William Hartley brother of the above who died February 24th 1853 aged 38 years. Also Robert Hartley nephew of the above who died August 17th 1852 aged 4 years. Anc B5



Robert and Isabella's fifth son, **James Hartley** and his wife/widow **Jane Tower Foxcroft** were successful coal merchants. They lived in Langcliffe but traded from Settle Station [LSA]. James and Annie's sons **Walter Hartley** and **Henry Septimus Hartley** worked as coal merchants and carters in Langcliffe. Henry lived to the age of 91.

James [ph1, right], was one of the 'Three Fishers' with **William Capstick** and **Matthias Nowell**. **William Clark** and **Thomas Altham** wrote a satirical poem about the Three Fishers which caused a bit of a stir amongst locals — see **William Capstick**. James died in 1902, aged 83, after 40 years in business, 'the last survivor of the' settleresearch@gmail.com



family of the late Mrs Hartley, almost a century ago, and one of the most familiar and well known men in the district. Winter and summer he was to be found at his office in the Settle Station.'[6] James was buried at Langcliffe.

DEATH OF MR. JAMES HARTLEY.—On Saturday last, there passed away at his residence at Langcliffe, Mr. James Hartley, who for the last 40 years has carried on business as a coal merchant at Settle. The deceased, who had been in failing health for some time, was 83 years of age. He was the last survivor of the family of the late Mrs. Hartley, who kept the Golden Lion Hotel, Settle, almost a century ago, and was one of the most familiar and best known men in the district. Winter and summer he was to be found at his office at the Settle Station until very recently when he was obliged to discontinue attention to business. Although he was at one time overseer for Langcliffe he never took any active part in public affairs. The interment took place at Langcliffe on Wednesday last.



Robert and Isabella's son **Joseph Hartley** had the honour of being married in the very first wedding ceremony at Holy Ascension church on 12 December 1849. He married **Susannah Hardacre** from Long Preston. Joseph made a fortune as a cotton manufacturer in Lancashire working in partnership with **Francis James Gill**, his brother-in-law, the husband of sister **Jane Hartley**.

Robert and Isabella's youngest son (another) **Henry Septimus Hartley** took the bull by the horns and joined several other young men from Settle, including **Edward Duckett** to make their fortunes in the Australian Gold Rush. It seems Henry had an eventful life in Bendigo, north of Melbourne in the State of Victoria. In 1867 Henry and two others were taken to Melbourne Criminal Sessions accused of maliciously setting fire to their own business premises, the Belle Vue Hotel, with intent to defraud. This hearing took weeks. In the end all three were found Not Guilty [T1/2]. Immediately after the case was reported in the newspapers, Henry sued the newspaper owners for defamation of character and libel [T1].

A Supreme Court writ has, I find, been issued at the suit of **Henry Septimus Hartley**, (one of the accused in the late arson trial from Daylesford), against the proprietors of the *Argus*, for alleged defamation of character and libel, contained in a leader published in that paper yesterday, in reference to the trial. It is also said that another writ

MELBOURNE CRIMINAL SESSIONS.

NEW COURT.—Saturday, 18th May.—(Before his Honour Mr. Justice Barry.)
THE DAYLESFORD ARSON CASE.
FOURTH DAY.

George Patterson, Henry Septimus Hartley, and **George Carrigham** answered to their bail on a charge of having, on the 27th November, 1866, unlawfully, feloniously, and maliciously set fire to the Belle Vue hotel, situated at the corner of Stanbridge and Queensberry streets, Daylesford, with intent to defraud.

AN INTERMINABLE LAWSUIT.

'The different local courts of law have been during the last fifteen months partly occupied by the hearing of a dispute between two miners—**Peter Morrison** and **Henry Septimus Hartley**—over a block of ground on the Britannia line of reef, Golden Gully. The ground in dispute, when first taken up, was considered of a very valuable nature, and consequently its possession provoked an amount of litigation of the most expensive character. The case has been before the Warden's Court at least in a dozen different forms, before the Court of Mines on about an equal number of occasions, and finally before the Supreme Court. In the Police Court a couple of

During the 1870s Henry found himself in court again, on multiple occasions. In an 'Interminable Lawsuit' Henry was in dispute with a miner, **Peter Morrison**, about the ownership of a block of valuable land. Over the months the dispute had involved various assaults and court decrees. The case had been in both the Court of Mines and the Warden's Court on 15 occasions each, and then a Supreme Court. It's not clear if or how it was resolved! [T1]

Settle Graveyard Project

In 1864 Henry married **Bridgetina Elizabeth Kirby** from Limerick, Ireland. She had gone to Australia with her mother after her father died. Henry and Bridgetina Elizabeth had three sons and five daughters and were buried with an infant daughter and a fine gravestone [ph7].



...JR...

For the story of **Edward Hartley** - see Greenwood, Ancient graveyard

For the story of **Henry and John Hartley** - see Ratcliffe, Ancient graveyard

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 settlresearch@gmail.com. Latest news and events are on the Facebook page 'Settle Graveyard Project'.

Illustration kindly provided by Teresa Gordon

A – An appreciation of Settle, Settle and District Civil Society, 1973

B – Thomas Brayshaw - Local fragments

Newspaper cutting with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Lancaster Gazette, 2 – Kendal Mercury, 3 – Westmorland Gazette, 5 – Bradford Observer, 6 – Lancaster Standard, Australian newspaper cuttings credited to Trove.nla.gov.au, T1 – Bendigo Advertiser, T2 – Melbourne Herald.

SC – Settle Chronicle, LSA - Lambert's Settle Almanac, WLP – the diaries of William Lodge Paley both with the kind permission of the North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust

ph1 – photo with kind permission of the North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust, ph2 – kindly provided by John Reid, ph3 – with thanks to descendants Allan Gould and Paul Wiltshire, ph4 – credited to the Back in Settle Facebook site, ph5 – credited to Midlandhotel.org, ph6a – credited to descendants of the family via Ancestry.co.uk, username *th_brown66*, ph6b – username *marioncrossley1*, ph7 – credited to findagrave.com, ph8 – credited to happyvalley.org.uk, ph9 – credited to artuk.org, ph10 – credited to Wikipedia