

Frederick Hart, from the city of a thousand trades

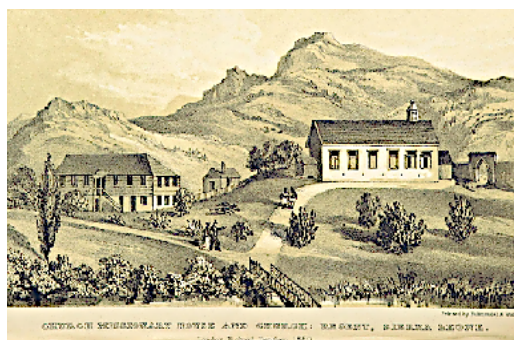
Frederick Hart was born on 4th October 1821, the youngest of five sons and a daughter to Abraham Hart and Mary Robinson. They lived in Nechell's Green, in those days a village to the north east of Birmingham and were members of the Wesleyan Methodist Church.

Birmingham has been marketed as the 'city of a thousand trades' for centuries, an adaptable manufacturing city with a wide array of industries. From as early as the 16th century Birmingham was the national centre of metal working. In the English civil war the town's blacksmiths manufactured sword blades for the Parliamentary forces. The Birmingham Canal was built in 1768-72 providing the first significant links to other parts of the country. It became the fastest growing city of the 19th century, taking its population from 74,000 to 630,000. Steam technology powered factories while thousands of small workshops continued to manufacture buttons, cutlery, nails and screws, guns, tools, jewellery, toys, locks, and ornaments, amongst others.

Several of Frederick's family stayed in Birmingham developing a range of skills to exploit these opportunities. In the early 19th century Abraham and son Henry Hart worked as 'steel toy grinder and polishers'. This was in the very early days of steel, before the process of mass production was invented by Henry Bessemer. Son George Hart began life working as a steel grinder but then became a gold cutter and son-in-law William Yates Walton was a glassblower. Unfortunately, son Abraham was described as a lunatic on census returns and died at the age of 44.

Sons Richard and Frederick were called to an alternative path. Richard, born in 1818, devoted himself to work for the Methodist Church from an early age, although worked as a 'gilt toy worker' as a young man. He was one of several local young men to promote the religious cause including his younger brother Frederick and Samuel Coley.

In 1847, aged 29, Richard was sent by the Wesleyan Missionary Society to Sierra Leone in Western Africa. Richard's son, another Richard, wrote, *'the formation of this settlement was the outcome of philanthropy. In 1787, a body of humane men removed 470 destitute negroes from London and settled them there and, in 1790, 1196 negroes were removed from the too severe climate of Nova Scotia to add to the settlement. Since then many slaves, captured by British cruisers, settled there. The climate is humid, unhealthy and pestilential and is so inimical to the European constitution as to have secured for Sierra Leone the significant alias of 'the white man's grave'. It was to this settlement, where "death's thousand doors stand open four-fold," that Mr. Hart went as a missionary.'*[A, ph1]

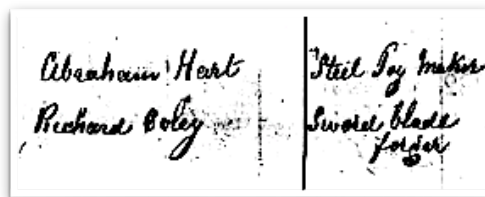


Whilst he was in Sierra Leone a well documented incident demonstrated Richard's sincere resolve. On his way to preach at a small town Richard lost control of his horse and was thrown off, badly breaking his arm in two places. After resting for a short time, he was helped back onto his horse, reached his destination and preached a morning sermon to a large congregation 'with his broken arm resting on the Bible'. In the evening Richard delivered an earnest address on the subject of Christian missions. It took four days of rest before the swelling reduced enough for his arm to be treated. 'Had this instance of heroism or its like occurred on the battle-field, it might have won for him a wide-spread fame and promotion.'

Richard returned to Bradford in 1850 and soon after married a Wesleyan minister's daughter **Mary Dilks** in Greenock. By September 1852 they were on board the '*Maria Louisa*' to serve in Australia at a time when there were only two Wesleyan circuits there. Mary gave birth to a daughter, **Mary Ruth**, whilst at sea. They landed in Australia 100 days later and remained there for the rest of their lives. Unfortunately, Mary Ruth died a few months later but they had five other children. This was still a tough job. Richard had to travel 50-60 miles every Sunday to deliver three services. Richard merited a glowing obituary when he died, aged 89 [1].

<p>DEATH OF A CLERGYMAN: A NOTABLE CAREER.</p> <p>The Rev. Richard Hart, of Maude-street East, died last night after a lingering illness, at the advanced age of 89 years. Mr. Hart, who was born near Birmingham in 1818, came to Victoria early in 1853, after having served between three and four years as a missionary at Sierra Leone, then known as "the White Man's Grave." One incident which occurred</p>	<p>Geelong to reside. The deceased gentleman, who was the oldest Methodist clergyman in the State—probably in Australasia—was recognised as a firm and capable administrator, who enjoyed the unique record of never leaving a circuit in a worse financial position than when he entered it. Never assertive where his own interests were involved, he never sought the preferment for which his characteristics and ability eminently qualified him. He lived the Christianity he preached, and as a man was greatly beloved by all with whom he came in contact. Mr. Hart leaves a widow and five living children, all grown up. The</p>
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Richard's younger brother Frederick also started life as a gilt toy worker but was also drawn to the Wesleyan Methodist church and was ordained in 1848. When he was 30, in 1852, he married **Mary Ann Coley**, describing himself as a 'dissenting teacher'. Their witnesses were Frederick's brother Richard, just a couple of weeks before he left for Australia, and Mary Ann's sister **Roseanna Coley**. Mary Ann was the daughter of a sword blade forger – yes, this is 19th century Birmingham.



Frederick and Mary Ann didn't have children. Rather than a calling to Sierra Leone, Frederick's teachings took them to Melton Mowbray, Pickering and Yeadon where Mary Ann died, aged 59. Frederick moved to Settle where he was cared for by niece **Sarah Ann Hart**. Due to ill health he became a 'supernumerary minister' and died in 1896, aged (almost) 75, leaving his modest estate to **Frederick Collins Coley**, a surgeon and Mary Ann's nephew. He had served the Methodist church for nearly 50 years.

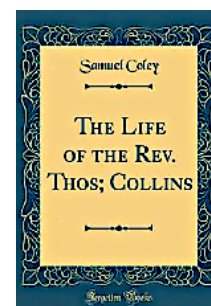
The death of the Rev Frederick Hart, one of the oldest ministers of the Wesleyan denomination, occurred on Saturday at Settle. The deceased, who was 75 years of age, had been nearly 50 years on the roll of preachers, having been ordained in 1848.

Mary Ann had been one of five children of **Richard Coley**, the sword blade forger, and **Ann Collins** but three children died in infancy. Mary Ann's only surviving sibling was her brother **Samuel Coley** who was also called to serve the Methodist Church and was listed as one of the young men of Birmingham to work with Richard Hart. Samuel's obituary said '*he enjoyed the unspeakable advantages of pious parentage and a godly training*' [2]. Preaching from the age of 16, Samuel attended Richmond Theological College and demonstrated '*earnest and devoted piety*'. He was remembered as saying '*It is better to say things which people will remember and talk about 30 or 40 years afterwards than to give utterance to a number of smooth polished sentences which would roll off the memory like quicksilver (mercury) from polished marble.*'

We are met here to-day to do honour to the memory of our departed friend, the Rev. **Samuel Coley**, but all that we say in his praise we intend to redound to the glory of that Saviour whom he so faithfully served. Mr **Coley**, who was born in Birmingham in the year 1825, enjoyed the unspeakable advantage of a pious parentage and a godly training, and in very early life experienced the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit. When he was but six years of age he clearly entered into the conscious enjoy-

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Samuel served in circuits around the country and in 1873 was appointed theological tutor at Headingley College in Leeds. One of his greatest works 'most appreciated by his students' was the biography of his uncle, Rev Thomas Collins near whom he was eventually buried when he died, aged 55. Samuel married Elizabeth Birt [ph2] and they had two sons, Frederick Collins Coley, surgeon and Samuel Birt Coley, another Wesleyan minister. Bizarrely, Frederick Collins Coley was associated in an advertisement for Turkish Baths, endorsed by socialite Lillie Langtry, the niece of *Jackson Mason* [ph2].



Lillie Langtry advertises the Pilgrim Street Turkish Baths, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, in 1887



Photo: Source unknown

'I attribute my perfect health entirely to the Turkish Bath, which I take twice a-week regularly. I find it keeps my skin in excellent condition, notwithstanding the pigments one is unfortunately obliged to use on the stage, and I think for all small ailments the Turkish Baths is the best Doctor to fly to.'

Lillie Langtry

The quotation is from an advertisement appearing in: *The Turkish bath: its history and use* / Frederic Collins Coley. — London : Scott, 1887



In one of those incredible coincidences, in 1913 son Samuel Birt Coley replaced *Joseph Wells* as the Wesleyan Minister at Midsomer Norton, which is a real place! The article praised his father, 'the late eminent Rev Samuel Coley [4]. Joseph Wells became an inhabitant of Settle graveyard when he was buried in 1929.

Mr. S. Birt Coley, who takes the superintendency of Midsomer Norton in place of Joseph Wells, gone to Salisbury, has travelled thirty-nine years. He is the son of the late eminent Rev. Samuel Coley, one of the great preachers in Methodism a generation ago. During his early ministry he spent three years in the Bristol (Langton Street) circuit. He also spent three years in Ketley Bank, Leamington, Swanage, Newcastle-on-Tyne (Ryton), Sheaford, Hoyleke, Ventnor and Dover.

Frederick was looked after in his later years by his niece, Sarah Ann Hart. She was the daughter of Frederick's brother Henry Hart, another steel toy polisher. Her siblings married or worked as a forgerman, provisions merchant, bridle maker (saddler), an optician and a cycle polisher. Sarah Ann lived with her parents until they died and then with her uncle George, the gold cutter before living with uncle Frederick. Tragically, although living 'in comfortable circumstances' she didn't cope with Frederick's death and took her own life just six months later. She had stayed in Settle but was found drowned in the Ribble at Langcliffe Locks after staying with some friends in Giggleswick. She was reported having wanted 'to give herself up to the police for imagined sinfulness.' Dr Buck stated that Sarah Ann 'suffered from religious melancholy and a bronchial cold.' [3] This tragedy was completely avoidable but support for mental health in the 19th century was non-existent. Sarah Ann was buried with her uncle in Old D14

DROWNED IN THE RIBBLE AT SETTLE.—Mr. T. P. Brown, coroner for Craven, held an inquiry, yesterday afternoon, at the Hart's Head Hotel, Giggleswick, into the painful circumstances attending the death of Miss Sarah Ann Hart, of Settle, aged 57 years. The body of the deceased, who was in comfortable circumstances, was taken from the river Ribble at the Locks, near Settle, on Saturday morning. Miss Hart had been staying with some friends at Giggleswick. She was greatly depressed in spirits, and wanted to give herself up to the police for imagined sinfulness. Mr. C. W. Buck, surgeon, stated that the deceased suffered from religious melancholy and a bronchial cold. There were no marks of violence on the body.—The jury returned a verdict of "Found drowned," and added a rider to the effect that no one was to blame for the tragedy.



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In loving memory of the Rev Frederick Hart who died at Settle, Aug 28th 1896 aged 78 years, having been 50 yrs in the Wesleyan Ministry. Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord. The Lord God giveth them light. Also of Sarah Ann Hart, niece of the above, died Jan 15th 1897 aged 57 years, Old D14

Another, unrelated, Hart family also found their way to Settle. **William Hart**, from Willington, Bedfordshire came up to this area for work on the building of the Settle to Carlisle Railway. He met **Mary Isherwood** from Bury who had been working as a cook for the vicar of Willington, and they married in 1871. They lived on Victoria Street in Settle and had three children. Their long term lodger, for over 20 years, was the butcher **George Joseph Beardall** until he took up residence with **Jane Nuttall** at Rose Cottage. After George left they moved to Duke Street, somewhere near the current Post Office and William worked as a railway carter.

In about 1885 the family had their photo taken by the Horner studios [ph3]. William and Mary are pictured with their children **Isabella**, **Mary Eliza** and little **John William**, known as John Willie.

William was 60 when he died in 1906 and Mary was 80 when she died in 1919. They are buried together in an unmarked grave *OldAX18*. Their two daughters remained spinsters. Eliza Mary spent her career as a servant and then companion to spinster **Sarah Ellen Wilkinson-Newsholme**, the only child of the wealthy bookkeeper, George Wilkinson Newsholme living near the Talbot Inn. When Sarah Ellen died in 1950 she left her estate of £1050, including the house, to Eliza Mary. Eliza Mary, therefore, had a comfortable last three years before she died in 1953, aged 76 and joined her parents in *Old AX18*.

Meanwhile, after her parents died, daughter Isabella found work in Pudsey Leeds. Son John William found work in the Sheffield Foundry works and then, after marrying widow **Annice (Brown) Ridley** ran a draper's shop. Annie's first husband, **William Ridley** was a boiler fireman but died after



Family group, Hart , photograph by the Horner Studio. Horner Collection©NCBPT (CC-BY 4.0)

At the inquest this afternoon evidence was given to the effect that the chain was supposed to take about 11cwt., and that the girder they were moving weighed about 3cwt. The chain had broken, but it was not known what had caused it to do so. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death," and expressed the opinion that the chain was not strong enough for the weight.

FATAL ACCIDENT AT GRIMESTHORPE.

Whilst following his employment at the Grimesthorpe Works of Messrs. Cammell, Laird, and Co., Ltd., on Saturday, a fitter's labourer named **William Ridley** aged 43 years, of 94, Worksop Road, Attercliffe, Sheffield, was killed through falling from a platform to the ground. Deceased was assisting another fitter to mark a girder for boring for a crane. For this purpose they were on a platform about sixteen feet from the ground. They had had the girder swung up, and had made it fast with a bolt while they marked it. When they had finished marking the weight of the girder was taken off the bolt. Immediately the bolt was knocked out the girder swung out and the chain parted. In falling the girder caught a plank of the platform and broke it, causing deceased to fall to the ground on his head. He died almost immediately.

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falling from some scaffolding whilst fitting a girder. [5] It sounds as if lack of health and safety played a part. Annie was left with a nine year old son but married John Willie a year later. They didn't have any more children and so their were no heirs to this family.



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'.

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ph1 – photo credited to Wikipedia, public domain, ph2 – credited to descendants of the family via ancestry.co.uk, username samcoley1. ph3 – Image 2022.1.68.67 from the Horner Photographic Studio Collection provided courtesy of the Museum of North Craven Life



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