

John Preston, innkeeper, Joiner's Arms, for over 30 years

John Preston began his life in 1813 in Airton, the second son of Samuel Preston and Ellen Overing. Ellen was the aunt of Settle draper *John Overing*. Samuel, a farmer and Ellen brought the family from Airton to Langcliffe in 1819. John's brothers **William** and **Thomas** became butchers in Langcliffe, and brother **James** and sister **Rebecca** married siblings from the Marchbank family and stayed in farming locally. They made a good living as their family gravestones at Langcliffe demonstrate.



When he was 19, John married 25 year old **Margaret Allen** from Hawes who already had a daughter, **Ann**, and would have another four daughters. It was a Christmas wedding on 24 December 1832. John began working life as a tallow chandler (candle maker) in Lancaster.

In 1847 John was attracted back to Yorkshire with the tenancy of the Joiner's Arms. The Joiner's Arms had been run since 1834 by **William King** and then by his daughter **Margaret (King) Gifford**. After her husband **John Gifford** died, aged 38, Margaret took over the New Inn on the junction of New Road (Station Road) and Duke Street, leaving the tenancy of the Joiner's Arms available for John Preston.



The Joiner's Arms, a coaching inn, was established in 1779 by **William Wilman**. During John's tenure, the Joiner's Arms provided daily coaches to Long Preston. It was centrally located so, as well as being a sociable refreshment stop for local men, was regularly used for formal and social gatherings, court cases and coroner's inquests [1, 5c]. Settle seemed just as busy as it is today!

INQUEST.—SUDDEN DEATH.—An inquest was held at the Joiner's Arms Inn, Settle, on Friday week, before **Thomas Brown, Esq.**, coroner, on the body of **James Garland**, an Irishman, lately residing at Settle. The deceased was a labourer, aged 40 years. He had a cancerous disease at the root of the tongue, which very much affected his speech, and frequently he had great difficulty in breathing. He felt much of this difficulty on Wednesday night week, when he got out of bed, and went out of the house to get air. Immediately afterwards his wife heard a noise in the house as if something had fallen. She went down stairs and found her husband had fallen with his head on the fire. She alarmed the neighbours, some of whom came directly, and found deceased quite dead. The jury returned a verdict to the effect that the cause of death was suffocation from cancerous disease at the root of the tongue, combined with deceased's accidentally falling upon the fire.

EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS.—During the month we have had an exhibition of Paintings, by modern, or after the Old Masters, in the Large Room at the Joiner's Arms, with a view to a sale by auction which was to have taken place on Tuesday the 16th, at 2 p.m. and again at 6 o'clock in the Evening, but alas, it was "no go" the people of this neighbourhood are not yet imbued with the Oil Painting mania, especially from the Old Masters, and we found the Gentleman was busy packing up his Old Masters when the first auction sale ought to have been at its height. There were some good Paintings amongst the lot, but of buyers not a single one, so the "gentleman in embarrassed circumstances" will have to get out of his difficulties elsewhere.

TRESPASS IN SEARCH OF CONIES.—On Tuesday last, before the Justices, at the Court House Settle, **Ambrose Preston** was charged with trespassing in search of conies, on land within the township of Settle, and in the possession of Mr. John Preston. Mr. Preston deposed to having seen the defendant with other persons unknown to him, commit the trespass complained of, but the defendant by various witnesses proved an alibi and the magistrates consequently dismissed the information. Mr. Preston junior, swore very positively to the defendant being one of the trespassers but if the defendants, witnesses are to be believed, he must have been mistaken.

RIDING WITHOUT REINS.—For this offence **William Edmondson**, of Upper Settle, was fined by the magistrates, on Tuesday last, 2s. 6d. and costs.

ODDFELLOWS BALL.—A tea party and ball of the members of the Independent Order of Oddfellows, took place at the house of Mr. John Preston, the Joiner's Arms Inn, on Friday, the 1st instant, when upwards of 80 sat down to an excellent repast, provided by the worthy hostess, after which the dancing commenced, which was kept up until a late hour in the morning. Great praise is due to the secretary, Mr. James Twisleton, for the spirited manner in which he got up the affair, and under his able superintendance the whole passed off in a very satisfactory manner. A song given by him (**Villikins and his Dinah**) was loudly applauded and several other songs given by the company between the dances added considerably to the conviviality of the evening.

The coroner's inquest into the death of John Steele, brother-in-law of *Francis Ellis* also took place here in 1854.

SHROVE TUESDAY.—This is the day most honoured in the year by the apprentices who take care to remind their masters that Pancake Tuesday afternoon is their holiday. In former days football was the general occupation, there are some who recollect the ball being tossed up at Settle Bridge, and a stiff game followed on the road betwixt the players of Giggleswick and Settle. This year however another scene took place. The gentry and trades-people having neglected to celebrate the marriage of the Princess Royal, the hands of Mr. Procter's Mill with some others originated a plan to provide a Public Tea and fixed on Pancake Tuesday for the celebration of the Royal Marriage in their own way and shewed that they could get up and manage a "stir" and exhibit their loyalty in a right joyous and sober way. About three o'clock the fife and drum band preceded by the getters up of the Tea drinking, somewhat ridiculously followed by some queer figures on horseback proceeded round the Town, halting occasionally to refresh at the different Inns. We wondered what the figures were intended

DANCING AND CALISTHENICS.

E. WINDER,

Begs to inform the Ladies and Gentlemen of Settle, that his ACADEMY will be re-opened at the JOINERS' ARMS, on Monday, the 23rd of December.

BRAYSHAW'S ORNAMENTAL QUILT.—This fine specimen of needle work, after having been at the Great Exhibition, is being again shown at the Joiner's Arms. Those of our Settle friends who have not seen it, should not miss this opportunity.

The locomotive of the temperance society had been brewing Tea for sometime in the large room at the Joiners' Arms, kindly lent by Mr. Preston, for the occasion; and at four o'clock the room was filled with a very respectable company. About 300 partook of the Chinese leaf admirably decocted. The charge of 2d. each to Mr. Procter's hands and 4d. to others had drawn together one of the largest 'Tea drinkings' ever held in Settle. After Tea dancing commenced which was kept up till about eleven o'clock, and the parties separated highly delighted with the social gathering. It is due to Mr. Thomas

In 1858 John hosted a mass tea drinking event to celebrate the marriage of the Princes Royal, the eldest daughter of Queen Victoria to Crown Prince Friedrich Wilhelm of Prussia. It was organised by the town's apprentices on Shrove Tuesday 'to remind their masters that Pancake Tuesday afternoon is their holiday'. [5C]

For some reason, John changed the name of the Inn from the Joiner's Arms to the Commercial Inn. It was listed as the Commercial Inn in the 1867 Trade Directory. However, these things take time. While the Settle and Carlisle railway was being built the town was home to hundreds of navvies, 20 of whom died due to the dangers of their work. If this was due to accident, there was a coroner's inquest and several took place at the Joiner's Arms including that of young *John Jones*. Incredibly, in the same edition of the paper, on 3rd August 1872, there were two reports of the inquest, one reporting the inquest at the Commercial Hotel, the other at the Joiner's Arms [1]. The journalist writing about the Joiner's Arms gave a rather more graphic report!

INQUEST.—An inquest was held on Monday last, at the Commercial Hotel, before Mr. J. P. Brown, Deputy Coroner, respecting the death of John Jones, a young man, aged 17 years, who at the time of the accident was employed as a stoker, at Batty Wife, near Ingleton, on the new Settle and Carlisle Railway. The deceased met with his accident on Saturday last. Whilst in the act of doing something in connection with his engine he fell off, coming in contact with the abutment on the side, causing injuries to his arm and thigh. He was conveyed the same night to the hospital at Settle, but died shortly afterwards. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased was accidentally killed by falling from a railway engine.

FATAL ACCIDENT AT THE RAILWAY WORKS.—On Saturday morning last, as one of the engines was going towards the tunnel from Batty Green and when near to Jericho, John Jones, the fireman, was in the act of turning one of the taps connected with the engine when his foot slipped and he fell from the engine, two waggons passing over his legs and part of his body. He was at once removed to the hospital, at Settle, where he died in a few hours. An inquest was held at the Joiners' Arms Inn, before T. P. Brown, Esq., deputy-coroner, when a verdict of "Accidental death" was returned. The deceased, who was in his 17th year, was highly respected by all who knew him.

At some point during the early 1870s, John, in his 60s, retired. A transfer of the license in 1876 from George Sharp to Isaac Jackson still referred to the Joiner's Arms [1]. After a few more years the Commercial Inn became a Temperance Hotel [ph5].

TRANSFER OF LICENSE.

The license of the Joiner's Arms public-house was transferred from George Sharp to Isaac Jackson.

John died in 1881, aged 69 and Margaret followed a year later. They are buried in Giggleswick graveyard with their youngest daughter.

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Duke Street Old, photograph
by the Horner Studio.
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In loving memory of John Preston of Settle who died August 5th 1881 aged 69 years. Also of Margaret Preston his wife who died at Lancaster April 18th 1882 aged 75 years. "Rest in the Lord." Also of Elizabeth Smith youngest daughter of the above who died November 10th 1922 age 75 years B8/42.

So, what happened to their five daughters?

Eldest daughter **Ellen Preston** struck lucky in 1853 when she married **Matthew Whittam**, a tanner from a long line of Settle tanners. The Whittams rented eight acres of land from the Dawson family at the Green in Upper Settle [ph1], obtaining animal skins from the slaughterhouses in the Shambles in Settle. They employed six men so were the largest tanning business in the area. Tanning was a messy job producing acrid fumes so tanneries, like Matthew's, were often located on the edge of towns and villages.



In the late 18th century, Settle market was a centre for the tanners and shoemakers with the Talbot Inn being the main trading place. Traders came from far and wide with poor old **William Poole**, from Sheffield meeting a painful end in 1785 [A]. The trade began to decline in the 1830s after easily accessible Leeds set up a new quarterly Leather Fair [SC].

From the list of deaths for 1785.

August 17th, Mr. William Hoole, an eminent tanner, near Sheffield. Going to Settle fair his horse unfortunately ran away with him near Bradford, and threw him, by which he was bruised in so terrible a manner that he expired soon after.

LAMMAS FAIR.—Some 20 years ago the 19th of August was a day of great importance to the Curriers, Leather Dealers and Shoemakers of this District. The neighbourhood of the Talbot Inn was crowded with the sons of Crispin and the sellers of Leather, and numerous traders in "Sparables," from that once great Shoe-nail mart, Silsden. It was no uncommon thing to see empty Leather waggons standing in the streets and Inn yards, whilst the bulky bundles of "Bend" were offered for sale in the Barns, and sheds of the Inn yard. Dealers and Shoemakers came for 50 or 60 miles round. This year the only relic of this once great Leather Fair, as were couple of Silsden nafflers, and probably next year they will find it convenient to stay at home. As a Leather Fair it may be said to be fairly defunct. The establishment of a quarterly Leather Fair at Leeds, was the first great blow to Settle Fair, and the breaking up of the 12 months credit in the Shoe and Leather trade, with the easier means of transit, have put the finish to this fair. No more will the sons of Crispin be seen

Matthew Whittam and his father, another **Matthew** continued the trade in Upper Settle. Matthew's mother, **Sarah Goldsborough** had died when he was ten. Matthew's older brother **William Goldsborough Whittam** was one of the many young men of Settle who emigrated to

Adelaide, Australia during the Australian Goldrush, married and had 11 children [ph2].

Matthew's sister, **Patience Ann Whittam**, was a keen member of Settle Choral Society and regularly performed at the Music Hall [1] with 'a very superior soprano voice, and stands pre-eminent as a songstress to all her predecessors that have been engaged by the society'. She remained a spinster and retired to Morecambe.

A year after their marriage Matthew (or his father) had to take **John Brown**, a shoemaker, to court for



CONCERT AT SETTLE.

A few spirited tradesmen in Settle got up a concert on the 9th inst., for the benefit of the Working Classes, when the following artists were engaged—Miss Whittam, Mr. Hinchcliffe, Mr. Newsome, Mr. Calvert, and Master Naylor, pianist, from Leeds; assisted by Mrs. Sanderson, and a few amateurs connected with the Settle Choral Society. The programme, very

ANOTHER CONCERT. — A vocal concert is announced to be given, in Settle Music Hall, on Tuesday. Miss Whittam, Mrs. Sanderson, Mr. Hinchcliffe, Mr. Newsome, and Mr. Calvert, will be the principal singers; and last, but not least, the prices of admission will be such as are more likely than previously to attract the middle and lower classes. This is worthy of notice these hard times.

unpaid debts, totalling £57 7s 6d (plus 40s costs). John had previously been apprenticed to the Whittams. Tallow chandler **Peter Skirrow** gave evidence of a conversation at the Joiner's Arms the previous spring [1]. Peter would have known Matthew well through his trade with the slaughterhouses.

WHITTAM V. BROWNE.

This was an action brought by the plaintiff, a tanner, at Settle, for goods sold and delivered to the defendant, who was a shoemaker in the same place, for £67 6s. 7½d., being balance of account.

Peter Skirrow deposed to hearing a conversation last spring, at the Joiners Arms, between plaintiff and defendant. Whittam asked Browne to pay him part of his account the sum mentioned was £57 some shillings. Browne said that he could not pay it all at once; he would pay him £8 each half year. Something was said about interest, but witness could not state exactly what.

Matthew and Ellen had three children, but their luck ran out when Matthew died, aged just 36. Ellen kept the business going for nearly 30 years, whilst also bringing up her two surviving sons. What an incredible woman! Daughter **Margaret Ann** had died aged seven.

Sons **William Goldsborough Whittam** and another **Matthew Whittam** were both educated at Giggleswick School and studied at Cambridge. Matthew was a particularly talented sportsman, excelling in cricket and running [1].

Flat Race, 100 yards, open—1, Whittam; 2, Wilson. Time 10½ seconds.
 Throwing the Cricket Ball, boys under 5ft.—1, Swinbank; 2, Crossland. Distance 61 yards.
 Putting the Shot, open—1, Whittam; 2, Bentham. Distance 29 feet.
 Flat Race, 300 yards, boys under 5ft. 5in.—1, Calder; 2, Wilcock. Time 42 seconds.
 Hurdle Race, eight flights, 2ft. 10in. high, open—1, Whittam; 2, Burrows. Time 16 seconds.
 Broad Jump, boys under 4ft. 6in.—1, Rows; 2, Shawcross. Distance 16ft. 3in.
 High Jump, open—1, Wilson; 2, Burrow. Height 5ft. 1in.
 Flat Race, 100 yards, boys under 5ft. 5in.—1, Calder; 2, Wilcock. Time 11 seconds.
 Flat Race, 440 yards, open—1, Whittam; 2, Burrows. Time 62 seconds.
 Broad Jump, open—1, Wilson; 2, Whittam. Distance 16ft. 10in.

SETTLE v. CLITHEROE.—The return match between these elevens was played on the Marshfield ground, Settle, on Saturday last, with the result that the home players were decidedly the victors. The faultless innings of Walker (74), steady batting of Stanley (32), and noteworthy bowling of M. Whittam, who took five wickets at a cost of nineteen runs, combined to bring about the result indicated. On the part of the visitors,

wards of merit. Whittam was the hero of the day—carrying off four silver and the gold medal—the latter given by the Head-master to the winner of most events.

By the time of the 1901 census, Ellen lived with her two

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sons who were running Ryde School of Art in the Isle of Wight. The college provided Army and Navy classes with 'special arrangements made for Indian boys'. The college exploited the benefits of the island and provided reduced fares on Isle of Wight railways [2]. This was quite a change from a pub and a tannery in Settle.

Ellen was brought back for burial with her husband and daughter back in Giggleswick graveyard close to the graves of Matthew's parents and aunt Patience. Matthew's cousin Margaret Horner married John Wildman, the Settle bookseller and publisher.

In memory of Matthew youngest son of Matthew and Sarah Whittam who died March 5th 1865 aged 36 years. Margaret Ann only daughter of Matthew and Ellen Whittam died July 8th 1867 aged 7 years. Also Ellen Whittam wife of Matthew Whittam died February 4th 1914 aged 80 years. The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God

Going back a generation, John and Margaret Preston's second daughter Rose Mary married Richard Coates, a farmer's son from Tosside. Perhaps inspired by John, Richard became an innkeeper at the Morecambe Hotel, behind the sea front at Morecambe. It is still in business today [ph3]. In 1854, before marrying Rose Mary, Richard was assaulted by *Christopher Laytham* [3] who had quite a few fisticuffs in his lifetime. As an innkeeper Richard was also assaulted by one of his customers [1] – the dangers of the job.

ASSAULT.—Mr Christopher Laytham, of Settle, horse-breaker, was summoned before the magistrates on Tuesday for assaulting and beating Richard Coates. The assault was admitted, but it was contended that the defendant was provoked to it. Mr Cowburn appeared for the complainant, and Mr H. Robinson for defendant. Fined 10s. and costs.

Settle.—On the 2nd inst, at the Crown Inn, Mr. Richard Coates, innkeeper, aged 50 years.

Richard died aged 50, having returned to Settle with Rose Mary for the last couple of years of his life, taking over the tenancy of the Crown Inn [1]. Rose Mary lived to the age of 76 and spent her last years in Oldham with her youngest son, another Richard Coates, a draper who had married Annie Handby, daughter of Settle plumber *John Handby*. Rose Mary and Richard are buried in an unmarked grave in Giggleswick graveyard. (Son Richard and Annie emigrated to Canada.)

John and Margaret Preston's third daughter Margaret Jane married John Thomas Cowley, a farmer from the Isle of Wight. Fourth daughter

Master Sydney Smith, photograph by the Horner Studio.
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R Y D E.
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Assistant Masters.—W. G. Smith, Esq, M.A., late
Exhibitor of Worcester College, Oxford.
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of Hertford College, Oxford.
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Trinity College, Cambridge.
H. L. T. Pigou, Esq, Pembroke College, Cam-
bridge.
Science—M. Whittam, Esq, M.A., Gonville and
Caius College, Cambridge.



ASSAULT UPON AN INNKEEPER AT MORECAMBE.—Geo. Bond, a fisherman of Morecambe, was charged by Richard Coates, landlord of the Morecambe Hotel, with assaulting him in his own house on the night of the 25th ult., and threatening to take his life. The defendant came to the complainant's house drunk, and demanded to be supplied with beer, the landlord refused, whereupon the defendant struck and kicked the complainant, broke a pane of glass, smashed a jug, and was very violent. The information was withdrawn upon the defendant consenting to be bound over to keep the peace for six months' and to pay the costs £1 0s. 8d.



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Rebecca married **William James**, a spirit merchant from Manchester. Youngest daughter **Elizabeth** married a builder from Bingley, **Jonas Smith**, who died just a couple of years after their marriage. Elizabeth ran a boarding house in Settle to earn money to bring up two sons, **Fred** and **Sydney**. Four year old Sydney had his photo taken at the Horner studios [ph6] and in 1907 Sydney was pictured in the cricket team [centre-ph4]. Elizabeth died in 1922 and is buried with her parents. Sons Sydney and Fred moved away.



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'.

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Lancaster Gazette, 2 – Isle of Wight Observer, 3 – Kendal Mercury

ph1 – photo credited to the Back in Settle Facebook page, submitted by James Harrison, ph2 – credited to descendants of the family via ancestry.co.uk, username SeagerBrenton, ph3 – credited to Google Earth, ph4 – with the kind permission of John Reid, ph5 – Image 2022.1.36.8, ph6 – Image 2022.10.68.128 from the Horner Photographic Studio Collection provided courtesy of the Museum of North Craven Life



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A – credited to Brayshaw and Robinson, History of the Ancient Parish of Giggleswick