

John Johnson Waller at The Black Horse in Giggleswick

John Johnson Waller was born at **The Black Horse** and baptised in June 1816, the first of at least four children of **John Waller** and his first wife, **Jane Ellis** (who was the sister of **Francis Ellis**, banker's clerk) who died after the birth of daughter Ann. John had a further nine children with his second wife **Jane Green**. The mortality in this family was appalling – at least six died in infancy or childhood.

Resident diarist *William Lodge Paley* recorded that John split a shoulder bone after being thrown from a horse in June 1828. John's brother William died of a ruptured blood vessel in his head six months later. The diaries suggest that young William was quite a naughty boy. John's brother Francis spent 14 weeks at the Eye Infirmary in London to have his 'eyes cut' and it worked, 'surprisingly'! Sadly Francis died aged 15.

John's dad (and granddad, both called John) were the landlords of the Black Horse Inn in Giggleswick. It was a busy thriving inn. William Lodge Paley frequently commented on Mr Waller and the way he dealt with boarders. It was quite common for single professional men to live permanently at the inns: *'Sep 24 - had 17 soldiers and 3 women at Mr Waller's last night, being part of the detachment of the North Lincoln Militia on their march to that city to be discharged'*, and *'Apr 21 - Got my half year's salary and paid Waller for board, who grumbled about my using candles in the parlour so often'*. William was paid his salary six monthly and so paid rent once paid. That would have caused a few problems for the more impulsive residents of Settle.



With all those younger siblings and visitors to the inn, it's not surprising that John Johnson Waller moved away, to Kendal, beginning his life as a curate. However, that didn't last long as he married Kendal girl **Hannah Compston** and they moved back to Settle. John Johnson worked as a draper, opening a shop just after their wedding.



In memory of Samuel Waller, son of John J Waller who died July 19th 1847 age 6 weeks. Francis who died Feb 5th 1849 aged 14 weeks, B11

Their sons Samuel and Francis both died in infancy and this may have prompted a move back to Kendal with their remaining daughter. They had another two children. John was a partner in the 'Garnett and Waller' drapery business with several assistants and apprentices. When Hannah died, John married the much younger **Agnes Bownas**. John was 78 when he died in 1894. Agnes outlived him by 25 years.

June 17.—J. Waller, junr., was thrown by a horse and split a shoulder bone—he had cans in his hand—Wm. behind him was unhurt.

back. Wm. Waller died of a ruptured blood vessel in his head, wh: the doctors had wanted to operate on.

April 18.—John Waller jr. set off early with his wife and yngst son Fran's to Leeds; she is going to the Eye Infirmary in London, by recommendation of Dr. R. Paley to get the child's eyes cut, in hopes to get it sight. She seemed down, but having an uncle in Town she will not be so lonely.—Was shocked to

the Coronation.
July 26.—Jane Waller and child returned from London and the latter has got to see surprizingly. They have been 14 weeks away.

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John and Hannah's son **Robert** became a draper, daughter **Hannah** married **Edward Hartley**, a Lancaster bank manager. Daughter **Jane** married a very successful (and wealthy) wool merchant, **John Frederick Watson** and gave him five sons [ph1]. They lived at Warton near Carnforth. John's obituary describes him as a good man when he died in 1903 [1].

Mr. John Frederick Watson, of Wharton, Carnforth, died at the Liverpool Royal Infirmary at two o'clock yesterday morning after undergoing an operation a week ago for an internal malady. He was about 60 years of age, and was well known in the North of England and Scotland as a wool and agricultural merchant. He was a member of the Lancaster Board of Guardians, and a district and parish councillor. He leaves a widow and a grown-up family.



Back in Giggleswick, John's brother **Thomas** ran the Black Horse for over 20 years after their dad died [ph2], providing celebrations for guests in 1874 [2]. **George Jenkinson** took over at the Black Horse.

PETTY SESSIONS.—TUESDAY LAST.
Before **J. Birkbeck, Esq. (chairman), Rev. H. J. Swale, C. Ingleby, and H. Christie, Esqrs.**
EXTENSION OF HOURS.—Thomas Waller, of the Black Horse Inn, Giggleswick, applied for an extension of hours until 12 p.m. on the occasion of the workpeople at the Hostel having a "rearing supper" on Wednesday evening next. The Bench granted until 11 p.m.

John's other siblings became farmers and brother **Edward Green Waller** emigrated to Honolulu and worked as a farmer with his wife and seven children.



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. 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 cutting with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Ulverstone Advertiser, 2 – Lancaster Gazette,

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ph1 – credited to the descendants of the family via Ancestry.co.uk, ph2 – kindly provided by John Reid