

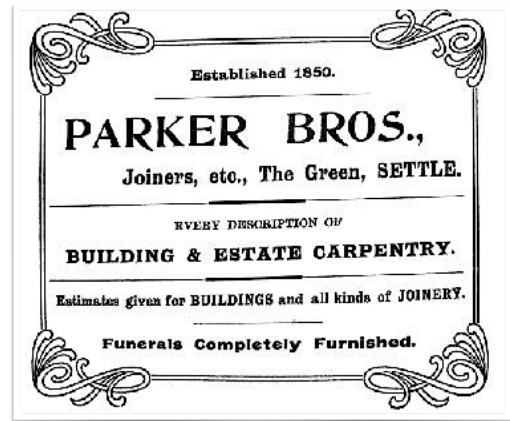
John Parker, father of joinery dynasty, Old 02

The fertile Parkers of Settle are numerous and occupy many graves in our graveyard. Many could afford gravestones thanks to their successful business.

John Parker, born in 1814 in Stainforth, was the eldest of at least ten children of **Thomas Parker** and **Margaret Downham**. Although born in Giggleswick, Thomas moved to Stainforth and worked as a joiner. John's uncle was *Stephen Parker* of the Ancient graveyard and his aunt Sarah Parker married *Henry Snell*, for better or for worse.

In 1842 John married **Mary Ann Walker** from Clapham and had nine children but with terrible infant mortality. **Abel, Eliza, Rebecca, Isabella Jane** and **George Henry** all died in infancy or childhood and are buried somewhere in the Ancient graveyard.

Joinery was a family trade and John set up business on the Green in Upper Settle, overlooking the town. This business, 'established in 1850' [LSA], operated successfully for generations. John and Mary had a prime location for their grave, just inside the church gate after it was repositioned upon the opening of the Old Graveyard.



In Loving Memory of John Parker who died Novr 25th 1894 aged 80 years. Also Mary Ann his wife who died Novr 25th 1889 aged 71 years, Old 02

John and Mary's surviving sons **Christopher Walker Parker** and **John Parker** carried on the family business. Eldest son **Christopher Walker Parker** also had ten children with his wife **Alice Hill** from Langcliffe. Christopher was a Manager of the National School for many years. Christopher and Alice celebrated their golden wedding in 1921 [1]. Their daughter **Sybil Mary** became the first wife of tailor **James Fletcher**, son of the incredibly fertile **Thomas Fletcher** - see *Gifford*. **Christopher Walker Parker** is buried with **Alice** and **Sybil**, together with the cremated remains of their spinster daughters **Agnes** and **Harriet** in grave *Old E53*.



GOLDEN WEDDING
PARKER—HILL.—October 12, 1921, at St. Alketa's Church, Giggleswick by the Rev. H. J. Bullock, Christopher Walker Parker, of Settle, to Alice, youngest daughter of the late John and Sybil Hill, of Langcliffe.—Present address: The Green, Settle.



In Loving Memory of Christopher Walker Parker died June 11th 1925. Alice wife of the above died December 21st 1923 aged 75 years. Sybil Mary their eldest daughter died February 28th 1902 aged 27 years, E53

Son **William Hill Parker** had a successful career working for John Delaney at the Horton limeworks [1].

He also served as the 'Correspondent' between the headteacher and the Managers of the National School. Part of this role seems to have been giving the headteacher a bit of a telling off! There was reminder in 1935 when the headteacher, Mr Roberts, forgot to 'arrange for a senior boy to be present at the exit of the Boys Playground when the

MR. W. H. PARKER
General Manager of Settle Limeworks

Mr. William Hill Parker, of Fernleigh, Settle, has died in a Manchester nursing home, and will be buried at Settle to-day.

Mr. Parker, who was 57, was the third son of the late Mr. Christopher Walker Parker, of The Green, Settle. He joined the office staff of the late Mr. John Delaney, became travelling representative for the Horton-in-Ribblesdale limeworks and colliery business, was appointed chief of the office staff, and, on the death of Mr. Delaney, took charge of the business for Miss Delaney. When the undertaking was taken over by its present owners, the Settle Limes, he was appointed general manager, and held that position at his death.

Mr. Parker was a member of the Castleberg Lodge of Freemasons, and was associated with Settle Rotary Club, Bowling Club, Chess Club, Cricket Club, and Conservative Club. He was also a vice-president of North Ribblesdale Rugby Club and president of Settle Limes Cricket Club. He has left a widow and one son.

scholars are leaving ... to prevent and possibility of accidents owing to the boys rushing out of school.' In 1934 he reminded the headteacher that *'the Vicar stated that he had told you as headmaster to warn him to cease at the proper time. Kindly Note.'* The vicar, Rev Twemlow, often gave lessons on religious instruction and presumably had a habit of running over!

William was buried in the grave New J11 with his wife Edith Johnson and son John Walker Parker. John's wife Ada Carter and son Roger Hill Parker are also commemorated.

In loving memory of memory of William Hill Parker died Feb 23rd 1937 aged 57 years and of Edith his wife died April 3rd 1956 aged 77 years John Walker Parker their son 1906-1955 and of Ada wife of the above who died in Lanner Cornwall, Aug 19th 1979 aged 75 years In loving memory of Roger Hill Parker son of John and Ada who died in Lanner Cornwall on March 1st 2000 Aged 66 years, New J11

Christopher and Alice's son George Walker Parker diversified from the joinery trade and became a plumber [LSA]. He married Isabella Holmes, one of the 15 children of plumber Thomas Holmes. When he died aged 51, George was buried in the unmarked grave Old AX76. Isabella had died two years before in Long Preston and was buried in Giggleswick graveyard for some reason. George and Isabella lived apart at the time of the 1911 census – perhaps they didn't get on too well.

When he was 41, Christopher and Alice's son Arthur, a law clerk for a Settle savings bank, took over as the school Correspondent when William died. Log books tell us he dressed up as Santa for the schoolchildren at Christmas! Arthur was a great bowler at the Cricket Club and was part of the team of 1905 that won the Ribblesdale League. A poem was written about them including the verse:

*Arthur Parker is a bowler, who bowls with lightning speed,
And those who have to face him are often sad indeed;
For when he cannot get them out he sometimes breaks their jaws,
At places where they know him they send dogs to tear his clothes.*

Arthur married the much younger Edna Carter. Edna was the sister of Ada Carter who married John Walker Parker, William Hill Parker's son. After Arthur died, Edna married Cecil Victor Thistlethwaite. Arthur and Edna are buried together in the grave New H11, perhaps with

Dear Sir,

At a meeting of the School Managers held last night a letter was read from Mr. Hallam the Education Officer at Wakefield with regard to the observance of the period set apart for religious instruction, and the Vicar stated that he had told you as the Headmaster to warn him to cease at the proper time. Kindly note.

Yours truly,

W. H. Parker

Correspondent.



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West Riding County Council.

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

District Sub-Committee.

Settle Church of England Schools

This communication should relate to one matter only

15th. March 1937 19

Dear Mr. Roberts:-

Probably you will have heard that I have been roped in to perform the duties which my late Brother Billy carried out in connection with your Schools, and I have been appointed a Foundation Manager and Correspondent.

I had really plenty to do, but knowing what a deep interest my Father who was formerly a Manager for many years had in the School, and Billy having followed on in the good work, I felt I could not refuse, but I shall rely a good you upon you to help me which I know you will.

Will you please complete the last 3 columns of enclosure, and forward to Mr. Douglas.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Yours very truly,

Arthur Parker

E. I. Roberts Esq.

Cecil's cremated remains.



In Loving Memory of Arthur Parker died March 31st 1943 aged 59 years and his wife Edna Died 28th Feb 1976 aged 77 years, New H11

John and Mary Ann's son John Parker married Elizabeth Falconer Ross from Aberdeen. They are buried in the grave *Old J48* with sons John Ross Parker and Henry Joseph Parker, and Henry's wife Doris Tinkler.

John Parker, The Green Born 1848, died 1922. Elizabeth Falconer Parker his wife born 1851, died 1930 R.I.P. John Ross Parker their son born 1876 died 1937 Henry J Parker born 1885 died 1957 and Doris Parker wife of the above 1898 - 1978, Old J48



Their son James Vincent Parker, another joiner and coffin maker in Upper Settle had two wives. First wife Lilian Selina Barclay died aged 31. She descended from the *Horner* and *Armistead* families. James and Lilian are buried in the unmarked grave *JX49* next to John and Elizabeth. James and Lilian's son John Vincent Parker married into the Wain family – see *Huthersall*. James Vincent Parker's second wife was Eva Kelly – *Lynn Kelly*.

John and Mary's son James Parker became a relieving officer for Settle, overseeing the distribution of support for the poor. He married Elizabeth Ann Yeadon. They are buried in grave *Old L39* with their spinster daughter Hilda Mary and their daughter Mary who had been the second wife of Christopher Thomas Fryer, a successful Lancashire cotton merchant. Mary was not commemorated on the stone.

James Parker died 30th November 1926 aged 70 years. Mary their daughter died 1st August 1947 interred at Whalley. Elizabeth Ann Parker his beloved wife died 19th June 1935 aged 78 years. Also Hilda Mary their daughter died 29th January 1938, Old L39



Their unmarried children Grace, Charles and James Walker Parker are buried together with a matching gravestone *New E7*.

In memoriam Grace Parker died January 20th 1951 aged 69 years. Also James Walker Parker died October 12th 1955 aged 60 years. Also Charles Parker 1892-1971, New E7



John and Mary Ann's only surviving daughter Mary Ann married George Dawson, a railway porter and son of Stephen Dawson and Ann Towler – see *William Towler*. They lived in Barrow-in-Furness.



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'.

Letters from the school log book, thanks to Settle Primary School

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Yorkshire Post

LSA - Lambert's Settle Almanac, with the kind permission of the North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust

Poem with thanks to Peter Metcalfe, Andrew Davidson of Settle Cricket Club