

## Whittles and Woods, offcoundens from Derbyshire

The Settle and Carlisle railway attracted hundreds of workers to the area, not just during the construction but also for the businesses that sprang up as a result of the better communications. These are two of the families who left behind unfortunate circumstances in Derbyshire to make a fresh start in Settle.

**Samuel Jackson Whittle**, born 1862 and **John Jackson Whittle**, born 1864 were the two youngest children of **William Whittle**, a joiner and his wife, **Hannah Jackson**, from Belper, Derbyshire. It seems that both parents died before the time of the 1871 census. Samuel and John's elder siblings, **Martha** and **Joseph Jackson Whittle** lived with their maternal grandparents but it's not clear where Samuel and John were at the time - a workhouse? Brother Joseph died, aged 17 but the remaining three siblings were with their grandparents at the time of the 1881 census. Soon after, Martha married a railway fitter, **Samuel Bond**, still in Belper.

By the time of the 1891 census Samuel and John had found their way to Ellwood cottages in Langcliffe working as labourers in the quarry. **Martha Wardle** lived with them as John's wife — they weren't actually married although locals thought they were. Martha had also come from Derbyshire, the daughter of a silk framework knitter. John soon found a post as a fireman stoker at Giggleswick school and they lived in Tems Street [ph1 - Martha on the left]. With no children of their own, John and Martha adopted **Mary Susan James**. Mary Susan was the illegitimate daughter of poor **Beatrice James**, a labourer's daughter from Sheffield. Beatrice may also have come to the area to find work but fell pregnant. With no family or support for unmarried mums, Beatrice gave birth at the workhouse. Unfortunately, Beatrice was found in Sheffield workhouse at the time of the next two censuses described as 'an imbecile' and 'epileptic' and died aged 33.

Fortunately, daughter Mary Susan had a good life with the Whittles and married and had a daughter, **Peggy**, with local lad **Walter Wilson** who took over as stoker at Giggleswick School when John retired. Walter and Mary Susan lived with John and Martha in Tems Street.

John and Martha eventually married back in Belper in 1933, both aged 69. During the 1940s they moved back to Belper to enjoy their last years together. The papers celebrated John's birthday in 1953, 'the oldest member of Belper Old Age Pensioners' Association' although he was 'only' 89 rather than 91! [1] He died a year later.



### 91 NOT OUT AT BELPER.

**Belper's Grand Old Man, Mr. John Jackson Whittle, of St. John's Road, celebrated his 91st birthday last Sunday.**  
He has lived alone at his present address since his wife's death about 11 years ago.  
He claims to be the oldest member of Belper Old Age Pensioners' Association. His biggest joy is a rose tree covered with blooms in his front garden. Tending it is one of his favourite relaxations.

## Settle Graveyard Project

Meanwhile brother Samuel caught the eye of **Ann Wood**. They married in 1891 and lived in Craven Cottages. Soon after they had a daughter **Nora Adelaide Whittle** but little Nora died when she was just 6 weeks old and was buried in the unmarked *Old BX52*, all by herself. A few years later Samuel and Ann decided to go their separate ways. Samuel returned to Derbyshire and found work as a coal miner. In 1935, aged 73, Samuel was involved in a car accident, suffering 'a lacerated scalp wound and general abrasions.' [2]. Samuel recovered but died five years later.

**ACCIDENT.—Knocked down by a motor car in Doncaster Road on Sunday, Samuel Jackson Whittle (73), of 20, Rowley Lane, South Elmsall, was admitted to the Warde-Aldam Hospital suffering from a lacerated scalp wound and general abrasions. He was detained, and yesterday was reported to be making satisfactory progress.**

Ann Wood's family had also come to Settle from Derbyshire. Ann's father, **John Wood** was a carpenter but when he died in 1889, her mother **Ann (Bond) Wood**, brought her four daughters and a son to live in Craven Cottages. The daughters, **Ellen, Ann, Adelaide** and **Fanny** worked in the mills and son **John Henry** had a joiner's apprenticeship with the **Brassington and Corney's** works nearby, setting himself up for a promising career. Ann and the girls, including separated Ann Whittle, spent the rest of their lives living together in Craven cottages. The sisters are all buried together in *Old JX23*.

Unfortunately, in 1897, when John Henry was 21 he had an awful accident while adjusting a belt resulting in the amputation of his arm [LSA]. 18 months later a concert was held to raise funds to support him [LSA].

22. Serious accident to a young man, Mr. John Wood, at the works of Messrs. Brassington Bros. & Corney, Settle, who, whilst adjusting a belt, was caught by the arm and drawn up from the ground: it was found necessary to amputate the arm.

John Henry managed to find work as a debt collector for the council and an

29. Concert at Settle for the benefit of Mr. John Wood, who had an unfortunate accident some time ago.—Opening of the New Organ at the Settle Wesleyan Church, by Mr. Procter Redmayne, L.M., L.C.M., of Didsbury College, Manchester.

insurance agent — not the most popular jobs but better than nothing. When he was 39, in 1915 John Henry married **Martha Annie Parker**, a farmer's daughter from Burton-in-Lonsdale. By the time of the 1939 pre-war register John Henry had become an assistant accountant in a government office, living in Stackhouse. After this they moved to Manchester.

There are no heirs of these family in Settle but Martha (Whittle) Bond had six children in Belper.



*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](http://ancestry.co.uk) includes the families buried in the graveyard. The project is ongoing and welcomes queries and information on [settlerearch@gmail.com](mailto:settlerearch@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 – Ripley and Heanor News, 2 – South Yorkshire Times*

*Settle Graveyard Project*

*ph1 – photo credited to the Back in Settle Facebook site, submitted by Edward Smith*

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