

Whittles and Woods, offcoundens from Derbyshire

The Settle and Carlisle Railway attracted hundreds of workers to the area, not just for employment during its construction but also for the business opportunities that sprang up as a result of 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 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. They could have been in a workhouse or could have been unofficially adopted by another family and given their surname in census returns. Joseph died, aged 17, but the remaining three siblings were with their grandparents at the time of the 1881 census.

Just weeks after the census return, daughter Martha Whittle married a railway fitter, **Samuel Bond**, still in Belper. They had six children, although one died in infancy. In August 1912, son **William Bond** married **Esther Caulton**, a local miner's daughter. As a wedding present Samuel and Martha wanted to give them a house to live in which meant evicting a longstanding tenant, **Alice Belshaw**, who had been resident for 32 years. Alice was a 56 year old widow, formerly a lace maker's wife. She wanted compensation for her cultivated garden, asking for £20 'which was ridiculously excessive' but the bench agreed!^[3]. Poor Alice needed a bit of luck — in 1882 her six year old daughter, **Mary Ann Belshaw**, was burned to death after being left unsupervised in the scullery. Anyway, William and Esther Bond moved into the house and, in September 1916, had a daughter, **Elsie Adelaide Bond**. Tragically, just a year later, William was killed on the Western Front during WW1 while serving with the Royal Dublin Fusiliers.

Dad Samuel Bond worked for the LMS (London, Midland and Scottish) railway for 47 years before retiring in 1928. Despite this, he did not receive a pension but was 'allowed privilege tickets' and was given a smoking cabinet by his colleagues ^[3]. This may have contributed to his death two years later, aged 72. Martha died in 1941, aged 82.

By the time of the 1891 census brothers Samuel and John Whittle had found their way to Ellwood cottages in Langcliffe working as labourers in the quarry. **Martha Wardle** lived with them as John's wife although, technically, they weren't actually married. Their marriage banns were read in Belper over three weeks in April/May 1885 but no marriage took place, for some

AFTER 32 YEARS.

[Samuel Bond], of Penn Street, **[Belper]**, applied for an ejectment order against **Alice Belshaw**, of 106, Nottingham Road, **[Belper]**.

It was stated that Mrs Belshaw had been tenant of the house for 32 years, and before leaving she wanted to be compensated for the cultivated garden.

Mrs. **[Bond]** said she wanted the house for her son, who had been married this week. He was having to pay to have his furniture stored. A sum of £20 had been asked as compensation for the cultivated garden, which was ridiculously excessive.

The Bench, in granting the order, intimated that compensation should be paid in respect of the garden.

AFTER 47 YEARS' SERVICE.

BELPER RAILWAYMAN RETIRES.

Mr. **[Samuel Bond]**, Penn Street, **[Belper]**, retired from employment under the L.M.S.

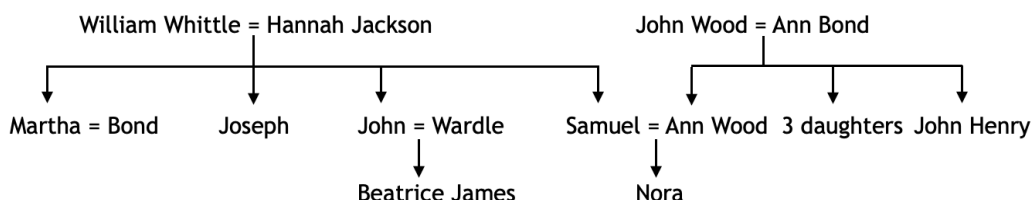


Mr. S. Bond.

Railway Company on Friday, having completed 47 years in the service of that concern and the Midland. Mr. **[Bond]** began work at Derby soon after completing his apprenticeship at Messrs. W. G. and J. Strutt's, with whom he was a fitter. When he 23 years old he joined the Midland in 1881. Mr. **[Bond]** does not receive any pension, though he is allowed privilege tickets for himself and Mrs. **[Bond]**, together with one pass a year. On severing his connection with the railway, his fellow workmen presented him with a smoker's cabinet, which was presented by the foreman of the shop. Mr. **[Bond]** is the father of five children, three daughters and two sons, one of whom, William, was killed in the war.

Settle Graveyard Project

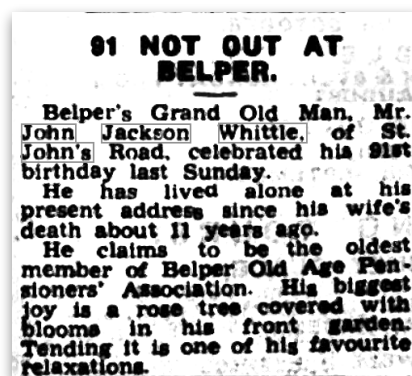
Whittles and Woods



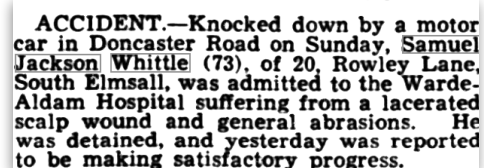
reason. Perhaps one of them had cold feet? Martha had also come from Derbyshire, the daughter of a silk framework knitter. John soon found a post as a fireman stoker at Giggleswick school and they lived in Tems Street [ph1 - Martha, left]. With no children of their own, John and Martha adopted **Mary 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 the stoker at Giggleswick School when John retired. Walter and Mary Susan Wilson lived with John and Martha Whittle in Tems Street.



John and Martha eventually married back in Belper in 1933, both aged 69 but then returned to live in Settle. The things people do to avoid local gossip! During the 1940s they moved back to Belper again to enjoy their last years there. The papers celebrated John's birthday in 1953, generating the headline '91 not out at Belper'. At 91 John was 'the oldest member of Belper Old Age Pensioners' Association'! [1] He died a year later.



Meanwhile brother Samuel Jackson Whittle caught the eye of **Ann Wood**, from Burton-upon Trent who had moved to Belper with her family. They married in Settle in 1891 and lived at 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]. Ouch! Samuel recovered but died five years later.



Ann's father, **John Wood** was a carpenter but, when he died in 1889, her mother **Ann (Bond) Wood**, (unrelated to Samuel Bond, above) brought her four daughters and a son from Derbyshire

Settle Graveyard Project

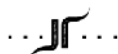
to live in Craven Cottages in Settle. The daughters, **Ellen, Ann, Adelaide** and **Fanny** worked in the mills and son **John Henry Wood** obtained a joiner's apprenticeship with the **Brassington and Corney's** works nearby, setting himself up for a promising career. Mum Ann and the girls, including 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]. John Henry managed to find work as a debt collector for the council and an 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 at Stackhouse. That's pretty good for an amputee. After this they moved to Manchester.

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.

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.

There are no heirs to either of the Wood or Whittle families in Settle but Martha (Whittle) Bond had four other 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 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 the Back in Settle Facebook site, submitted by Edward Smith

LSA - Lambert's Settle Almanac, with the kind permission of the Museum of North Craven Life