

Christopher Edmondson, the first burial in the graveyard



Sacred to the memory of Christopher Edmondson, solicitor, Settle who died January 21st 1839, Aged 36 years. In the midst of life we are in death, D9.

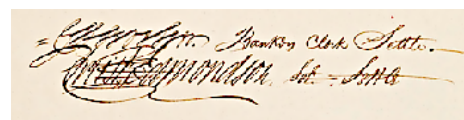
Christopher's gravestone is one of just two that lie flat on the ground, the other being that of *Ann Swale*, the first vicar's mother, who contributed a significant proportion of funds for the building of the church. Christopher's grave is located amidst the graves of other wealthy folk behind the south (altar) wall of the church. The stone is one of a large handful which face east, the majority of them being in place before the arrival of the second vicar in 1848.

Christopher was born in 1802 into a wealthy family in the Forest of Bowland. His father, **Edward Edmondson** had been a military man and died when Christopher was just five, aged 45, which may or may not have been related to the Napoleonic wars. However Edward left a sufficient pension and funds for his widow, **Ellen Bond** and seven children to live a comfortable life with a good education for all the sons and a healthy dowry for the daughters. Widow Ellen died in 1854 aged an impressive 85.

In 1829 Christopher married into another family of means. His wife was **Sarah Watson**, the daughter of **John Watson**, a solicitor, although John had died when Sarah was four. The Watson family home had been the magnificent fourteenth century *Borwick Hall* [ph1] near Carnforth, Lancashire (which is now an outdoor education centre). Christopher worked as a solicitor in Settle and was clerk to the magistrates in Sedbergh.



On 29th June 1838 Christopher was a witness, along with John Saul Howson to the signing of **Francis Ellis'** will [ph3]. Francis had worked as a clerk in the bank for 40 years when he died in 1854.



Christopher and Sarah had six children. In November 1838, daughter **Sarah (Sally)** was the second infant to be baptised at the 'new' Holy Ascension Church. Christopher suddenly died in January 1839, recorded as a '*visitation of God*' [1], becoming the first burial in the graveyard.

1839	Christopher Edmondson	Male	36 years	Attorney at Law	Visitation of God
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Sarah stayed in Settle bringing up the children in Church Street, the Market Place and then at Ivy Cottage, next to Ivy Fold in Giggleswick. At the time of one census she ran a boarding house to supplement her inheritance. Sarah died in 1885, aged 78, at her daughter Sally's house in Surrey.

SUDDEN DEATH.—On Monday afternoon last, Mr. Christopher Edmondson, of Settle, solicitor, with another gentleman, was laying out a portion of ground near to his residence, for the purpose of having it converted into a garden, and when in the act of placing a peg in the ground, he fell and instantly expired. The deceased, who was clerk to the magistrates at Sedbergh, was in excellent health the moment previous to his death, and was a gentleman of the most temperate habits.

What happened to Christopher and Sarah's children?

Along with many of young Settle men, sons **Edward and Christopher Dawson Edmondson** emigrated to Australia during the years of the Australian Gold Rush [2]. Edward lived in Victoria and had eleven children with two wives whilst

AUSTRALIA.—During the month accounts have arrived of the welfare of several of the young emigrants from Settle, Mr. Henry Walker, Shoemaker, has remitted his mother a sum of money. It speaks well for children when so far from home they shew such substantial remembrances of their parents. Most of the young emigrants from Settle are doing well, and we hope in future numbers to have to record many gratifying instances of filial gratitude.

working as a teacher. Christopher was a miner. Christopher's son, another Christopher Dawson Edmondson was a butcher who was declared bankrupt so took on labouring work. His life came to an unfortunate end after trespassing on the local railway [A].

Magisterial Inquiry.

DEATH OF MR. CHRISTOPHER DAWSON EDMONDSON

A Magisterial Inquiry was held by Mr. G. N. Douglas, Coroner, at the Wingham Court House, Monday, 10th September, 1945, as to the cause of death of Christopher Dawson Edmondson, whose body was found near the railway line at Baker's Creek bridge, between Mount George and Bundock.

parlor in Wingham. I found contusions and abrasions on the left side of the body, from the top of the head to the soles of the feet. There was also a fractured left radius. I consider the cause of death was shock and the prescribed injuries.

To Sergeant Clancy: The injuries would be consistent with falling from a bridge 37 feet high. They would not be consistent with being hit by a train. I should say the body had been dead between six and eight hours at the time I examined it. The Coroner

To Mr. Tarrant: Assuming the deceased was on the bridge and fell from there, he would be trespassing on the railway.

Christopher and Sarah's daughter Ann Edmondson died an infant and was buried in Giggleswick graveyard (before Holy Ascension graveyard had opened). Three other daughters found themselves moving in quite different circles. In 1858, Christopher and Sarah's eldest daughter Jane [ph2] married her first cousin John Dawson Watson [ph1], the son of a Sedbergh solicitor, Dawson Watson. The wedding was a lavish affair in Giggleswick with a reception provided by *Mary Wetherell*, landlady at the Golden Lion [5C]. They went to Venice on honeymoon.



WEDDING—Our readers will see amongst our notices of marriages that of Miss Sarah Edmondson of Giggleswick. The preparations for this event being of a more elaborate character than usually happens in our quiet vale we have pleasure in giving a more extended notice than the above. A shower of hail at nine o'clock in the morning looked rather ominous but only turned out a blessing in disguise, for the sun broke out most gloriously half an hour after—the only effect of the shower being to settle the dust. The bride was given away by her cousin John Mallinson, Esq., Solicitor, Manchester, and attended by six bridesmaids whose costumes were only second in elegance to that of the fair bride herself. The bride wore a tulle dress over white glacé silk, bands of silver in the hair, and an elegant lace veil covering the whole. The bridesmaids wore white embroidered grenadine, small white bonnets and blue ornaments. All the ladies carried beautiful bouquets of hot-house flowers. The *dejeuner* provided by Mrs. Wetherell, in her best style, was partaken of in a tent erected for the occasion on the lawn in front of Ivy Cottage. After breakfast, we understand the happy couple left for Venice. The numerous company after spending the day in

The London correspondent of a daily contemporary says:—"The papers this morning record the death of J. D. Watson, the artist. He was a member of the Society of Painters in Water Colours, the Royal Cambrian Academy, and a frequent exhibitor in many of the principal galleries in London. But it is not for his pictures shown in recent exhibitions that he is best known, or will be longest remembered. His chief work was done years ago (he was in his sixtieth year when he died) for the *Graphic*. He was one of the group of brilliant artists who gave that paper its present importance and artistic reputation by contributing to it at the start the best black-and-white drawings that have ever been produced in England. Since he

John was an unusually talented and celebrated artist, specialising in watercolours. He was invited to exhibit his work at the London house of artist Ford Madox Brown. He pioneered black and white line drawings for use in newspapers before photography was used, contributing '*the best black-and-white drawings that have ever been produced in England.*' [2] That's some claim! John illustrated books including *The Pilgrim's Progress*, *Arabian Nights* and *Robinson Crusoe*. John's sister, Frances, married Myles Birket-Foster, another artist, described in his obituary as '*certainly the most popular water-colour artist of our time*'.

Jane and John's children were, unsurprisingly talented dancers and artists, the most well known being Dawson Dawson Watson [ph1], who was one of the first members of the Impressionist colony in Giverny, France before emigrating to the States.



Settle Graveyard Project

Christopher and Sarah's youngest daughter **Sarah (Sally)** [ph2a] married **John Postle Heseltine** [ph2] on May 29, 1866, in Settle. They had seven children in 12 years.

John was a senior partner in the family firm of stockbrokers, Heseltine, Powell and Co., which made millions during the building of the American railroads. He was also a skilled draughtsman, etcher and painter. John was one of the '*foremost Victorian collectors of art*' owning more than 70 paintings by Rembrandt. He became a trustee of the National Gallery in London, specialising in Dutch works.

John arranged for the building of his home, 'the Red House' at 196 Queen's Gate, adjacent to Hyde Park in the style of a Dutch House. Designed by architect Norman Shaw, it was, and still is, a six story red brick residence, taller than its neighbours and standing out amidst the pale stucco facade and columned porches of the rest of Queen's Gate [ph4,5]. The house was ornately decorated with chintz furnishings and William Morris' *Daisy* wallpaper adorned with John's art collection. The balconies looked out over the Royal Horticultural Society's gardens beyond. The family held dances in period costume to celebrate its completion. Very nice.



John and Sally also had a country house, Walhampton House, in Hampshire [ph1], also designed by Norman Shaw. It was used during the Second World War by the American Air Force as one of their 'flak homes', a rest and recuperation country house. It is now an independent prep school.



John died in 1929, aged 86 and Sally died, in the Hampshire residence in 1935, aged 96! Her sister **Ellen Edmondson** remained a spinster and spent much of her life with John and Sally.

John's brother was Rev. Ernest Heseltine, who officiated at the wedding of John and Sally's eldest daughter **Dorothy Heseltine** [ph2] to **Viscount Cantelupe** in 1890. Viscount Cantelupe died in a boating accident a few months after their marriage [3]. He was sailing his yacht from Clyde to Southampton. The wind took hold and the crew moved the yacht into Belfast Lough but it was washed onto the rocks. Lord Cantelupe was swept away but the rest of the crew survived. A few years later Dorothy married **Baron George Jeffreys** who was from



A very interesting engagement, which will not only flutter Society, but awakens memories of an affecting tale, is announced. This is the betrothal of Captain G. D. Jeffreys, Grenadier Guards, only son of Mr. Jeffreys, Deputy-Chairman of the House of Commons, with Viscountess Cantelupe. The bride-elect is a widow, marrying in 1890, when quite a girl, Lord Cantelupe, the elder son of Earl De La Warr. A few weeks after marriage Lord Cantelupe went on a yachting cruise in the North of Ireland, but a storm arising he was wrecked and drowned in Belfast Lough. Since then the name of his widow has been mentioned more than once as a bride. Lady Cantelupe is a very beautiful and a very clever woman. The daughter of a wealthy City man, Mr. J. P. Heseltine, she is endowed with ample means, and does much valuable work in the cause of mercy and for sweet charity's sake.

the Fitzwilliam family, 'the richest and most powerful of all the land-owning families in Yorkshire' [4]. The family residence was Wentworth Woodhouse in South Yorkshire, recently acquired by the National Trust [ph1]. At the time 'the enormous park of 1300 acres...is still practically unspoiled by the tentacles of industry that are thrown out by Sheffield and Rotherham. The interior of the house is very magnificent and the collection of pictures of priceless value.'

LORD MILTON'S MARRIAGE.
 The announcement that Lord Milton is to marry Dorothy Lady Cantalupo has excited considerable interest. The Fitzwilliams are the richest and most powerful of all the land-owning families in the big county. Their possessions in Yorkshire alone bring in an income on close on a hundred thousand a year, and there are also large Irish estates. Wentworth Woodhouse, the principal residence of the family, is said to be the largest private residence in Great Britain. It has little architectural beauty, but the enormous park of 1300 acres, although partly cut into, is still practically unspoiled by the tentacles of industry that are thrown out by Sheffield and Rotherham. The interior of the house is very magnificent, and the collection of pictures of priceless value.



Dorothea famously associated with the young Princess Elizabeth [ph2].



Not to be outdone, youngest daughter Clarissa Mary 'Tiddles' Heseltine [ph2] married Charles William Sofer Whitburn, a banker and they lived at Amport House, near Andover, Hampshire [ph1] for a while. Clarissa was well known as a racehorse breeder [6].



Daughter Sylvia Heseltine married Philip Perceval Hunloke who descended from Spencer Perceval, the only British prime minister to have been assassinated, in 1812. The family residence was Wingerworth Hall, Derbyshire (which has since been demolished) [ph1]. Sylvia was awarded an OBE for her work during WW1.



In 1896 daughter Diane Elizabeth Heseltine married Roger Orme Kerrison, a banker and military man and they had three children living at Grundisburgh Hall, Woodbridge, Suffolk. By 1913 they were living apart and Diane took Roger to the divorce court in order to enforce a restitution of her conjugal rights. The use of divorce courts was an expensive (and sometimes seen as almost fashionable) privilege for the wealthy and this family

THAT the said Roger Orme Kerrison has refused and still refuses to live and cohabit with your Petitioner and to render her conjugal rights.

certainly exploited the freedoms it provided. The Settle Graveyard Project has three examples of wealthy women taking their husbands to the divorce courts to enforce a restitution of conjugal rights. In this case, Roger was obliged to concede but the couple divorced a year later in further proceedings. Poor Lt Colonel Roger Orme Kerrison died of dysentery in the fields of France in 1917. A year later Diana married Augustus Whitehorn Addinsall, a widowed physician from Birmingham.

John and Sally's sons had military careers.

Christopher Heseltine OBE served during the Boer wars and rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the Royal Fusiliers in the First World War. He was twice mentioned in dispatches. Christopher, *'one of the handsomest and most agreeable men in Society'* [9] was also a fine cricketer, predominantly a bowler. He played for and became president of the Hampshire Cricket Club and played two Test matches for England against South Africa during Lord Hawke's tour of 1895-96. On his debut, he took five wickets in the second innings against South Africa in Johannesburg. Christopher was a good all-round sportsman, *'one of the best shots in England, a very fair polo player and quite first-class at billiards. He will dance night after night and be fresh and fit the next morning. He is a typical Englishman in physique, tall, with a fair moustache, blue eyes and a square strong frame.'* When he was 53, in 1923 he married a widow Ethel Alice Howes.

Major John Edward Norfor Heseltine DSO had a long career in the army, primarily through the Boer wars. Aged 38 in 1919, John married a divorcee, Evelyn Mary Hargreaves, but had divorced by 1922.

John and Sally's son Godfrey Heseltine [7] retired from military life in 'British India' to a life of sport and leisure in Leicestershire. Tragically he took his own life, aged 61, leaving several 'pathetic' letters which the coroner refused to read out as they would only give unnecessary pain to the family [5,8]. His assets in India totalled 4,758 Rupees. Godfrey had married divorcee Jessie Maud Wrey, the daughter of a member of the British Consulate in India and his Indonesian wife. Godfrey and Jessie had a son, John Peregrine Heseltine.

Hampshire has one more warrior home. This is the popular Mr. Christopher Heseltine, one of the handsomest and most agreeable men in Society. He never got into the Eton eleven, but he is an erratic, though formidable fast bowler, and agile field, and hard hitter. He is the keenest of sportsmen, who would rather bow to a little boy in a garden than be idle. A rare, all-round sportsman, one of the best shots in England, a very fair polo player, and quite first-class at billiards, he will dance night after night, and be fresh and fit next morning. He is a typical Englishman in physique, tall, with a fair moustache, blue eyes, and a square, strong frame. When he dislocated his shoulder in the West Indies, his pluck aroused the admiration of the other cricketers touring with him. Last week, after opposing Yorkshire, he gave up his place in the next Hampshire fixture because he considers that he has not yet played himself into form.



Capt. Godfrey Heseltine, new Master, Essex Union F.H.

THE TRAGEDY.

On Friday he was found shot dead outside a summerhouse at his home.

There was a head wound, and a revolver lay near.

Earlier he had said "Good-bye" to his 13-years-old son, who was leaving for a holiday.

"He was called as usual at seven o'clock that morning and after breakfast went out, as he always did, to exercise his hounds. He had not long returned the hounds to their kennels when a gardener came across his body."

Major Heseltine was a well-known member of polo clubs, and until a few years ago was a prominent player at Springhill, Rugby, and also in London.

He served in the South African War and the Great War, and from 1899 to 1905 was Joint Master of Walthampton Basset Hounds, and had been Master since 1910.

He was also Master of the Ootacamund Hounds from 1906 to 1909 and during the 1919 season, and he was Master of the Essex Union Hounds from 1910 to 1915.

He was 61 years of age and leaves a widow and one son. Mrs. Heseltine was the widow of Sir Bouchier Wrey, Bart.

THE INQUEST.

At the inquest the South Leicestershire coroner returned a verdict of "Suicide while of unsound mind, adding that the dead man's mind may have been affected by hunting and polo falls.

Lieut.-Colonel Christopher Heseltine, a brother, said the major had had some very bad falls while hunting and playing polo.

DEATH OF MAJOR HESELTINE

FOUND SHOT IN HIS GARDEN

A GREAT SPORTSMAN

SAD STORY TOLD AT INQUEST

Major Godfrey Heseltine, of The Hill, Lutterworth, a famous Leicestershire sportsman, who had many friends in Northamptonshire, died under very tragic circumstances last week.

He was found shot in a summer house in his garden.

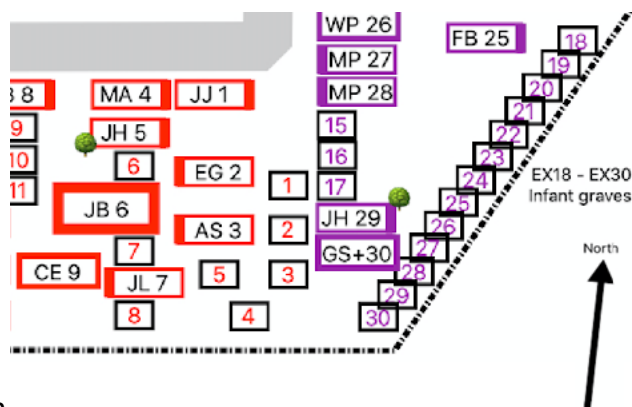
Letters addressed to Mrs. Heseltine were found, but at the inquest the Coroner (Mr. G. E. Bowskill), who described them as "pathetic," said he did not intend to read them as reference to them would only give unnecessary pain to the family.

Major Heseltine was a well-known polo player and a member of the Rugby Polo Club.

So, as this family demonstrates, having enormous amounts of money doesn't necessarily bring happiness. This first burial in the graveyard provided a fascinating insight into highest echelons of 'Society'. In stark contrast, the second burial was for poor little *James Clemmy*.

James Clemmy, the second burial in the graveyard

James was the sixth baptism at the new church, on 28th February 1839 but became the second burial just two days later on 2nd March. James was buried in an unmarked grave right by the wall, being the first in the area dedicated for infant burials in EX30. The diagram shows the position of James' grave (by the figure 30) and that of Christopher Edmondson, bottom left, CE9.



James was born to unmarried mum **Judith Clemmy** who was from Garsdale. Judith was born in 1819 and her father, **Arthur Clemmy**, died when she was just five. Her widowed mother, **Mary (Allen) Clemmy**, had several illegitimate children after that, but had also disappeared from records by the time of the 1841 census. At that time, Judith, (actually aged 22) lived with four younger sisters, a brother and a three year old infant in Otley, working in a cotton mill. There weren't many options for orphaned children. It's likely that Judith and her siblings came to Settle to try and find work when she had little James.

Judith Clemmy	20	
Ann D.	20	Cotton Weaver
Elijah D.	15	✓ - ✓
Isabella D.	15	✓ & Draper
Margaret Clemmy	14	Cotton Spinner
Robert D.	9	
Isabella Ward	8	

Fortunately Judith's luck turned around. In 1846 she married **Tim Metcalfe**, a farmer from Otley and they had two sons, **Arthur** (named after her father) and, 11 years later, **William**. They lived near Harrogate. Despite the problems in her early years, Judith lived to the age of 63. Son Arthur married and worked as a grocer in Hampsthwaite near Harrogate. After Judith's death, William emigrated to Canada.

Let's hope they were all happier than some of the descendants of the first burial.

Oh, how the other 'half' live. 80% of the population on the 19th century were identified as working class.



This account has been compiled as part of the Settle Graveyard Project. The project has recorded gravestone inscriptions, updated church records and researched the lives of those buried. The 'Old Settle' family tree on ancestry.co.uk includes all the families buried in the graveyard. The project is ongoing, and always welcomes queries, information and family knowledge on settleresearch@gmail.com. Latest news and events are on the Facebook page Settle Graveyard Project.

The life stories of people with italicised names have been researched as part of the graveyard project.

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Westmorland Gazette, 2 - Lancaster Gazette, 3 – Sheffield Daily Telegraph, 4 – Bognor

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Observer and West Sussex Recorder, 5 – Leicester Mercury and Herald, 6 – The Sketch, 7 – The illustrated Sporting and Dramatic news, 8 – Market Harborough Advertiser, 9 – Coventry Herald

A – credited to The Manning River Times and Advocate for the Northern Coast Districts of New South Wales via Trove.nla.gov.au

SC – Settle Chronicle, with the kind permission of the North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust

ph1 – photo credited to Wikipedia, public domain, ph2 – photo credited to the descendants of the family, via ancestry.co.uk, username Marilyn Smith, ph2a – Portrait of Mrs J. P. Heseltine by Edward John Poynter via Marilyn Smith, ph3 – with the kind permission of Francis Ellis' descendant Nick Delves, ph 4 – credited to the Victoria and Albert Museum, ph5 – credited to google maps.

