

## Settle Graveyard Project

There were four Phineas Butlers living in the Settle area during the late nineteenth century and, unsurprisingly, they are all related. They all descend from a patriarch **Phineas Butler**, born in 1744 in the Slaidburn/ Gisburn area via five of his sons - **George, Henry, Robert**, and another **Phineas** and his first wife **Ellen Hindle** and **Benjamin** via his second wife **Elizabeth Fell**. Phineas was an incredible man, living to the age of 92. Phineas and Ellen also had a daughter **Catherine Butler** who married **John Maudsley**. Much later, in 1908, their descendant, **Herbert Victor Maudsley** married **Agnes Winifred Miller**, the sister of **Matthew Miller**, innkeeper of the Royal Oak in Settle for many years.

Two Phineas Butlers are buried in Settle graveyard, and two in Rathmell.

## Phineas Butler, innkeeper of the Talbot Inn

This **Phineas Butler** was one of nine children of **George Butler** and **Jane Rawsthorn**, born in 1811 in Tosside. In the 1841 census Phineas worked as an agricultural labourer in Kirkby Malham, together with a cousin, also **Phineas Butler**, from Rathmell.

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|----------------|----|--------|----|
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In 1849 he married **Mary Shepherd**, daughter of **Richard Shepherd**, an innkeeper who ran a variety of inns, including the Hart's Head at Giggleswick. It's possible that **William Shepherd**, the incredibly successful Settle chemist was her cousin.

Phineas now worked as a beerseller. Beersellers were encouraged - the government was attempting to decrease the national consumption of spirits, so didn't impose expensive licenses for beersellers. Phineas and Mary lived in Bentham with a daughter **Mary Jane**. Mary died in 1857 when Mary Jane was just five. Mary Jane was brought up by her uncle **John Butler** and his wife **Eleanor** who didn't have children of their own. Mary Jane later married a farmer, **Mitchell Dearden**, and had six children - they lived in Nelson. Phineas took up the tenancy of the Red Pump In at Bashall Eaves near Whalley.

Two years later, in April 1859, Phineas married **Jane Barker**, a shoemaker's daughter from Grindleton near Clitheroe. She had two grown up illegitimate daughters. Phineas and Jane moved to Settle and ran the Talbot Inn on High Street [1] which was owned by **Stephen Wilman**. Unfortunately Phineas died less than a year later, on 12 January 1860, aged 48. He had been suffering from catarrh for ten weeks and also had enteritis (inflammation of the intestine) for 48 hours. The owner, **Stephen Wilman** was present at the death and **John Cowburn** was the registrar.

**TRANSFER OF LICENSES.**—The following transfers of Licenses were effected at the Settle Court House on Tuesday last :—The Talbot Inn, Settle, from Mrs. Cork to Mr. Phineas Butler, late of the "Red Pump," Bashall Eaves, and the "King William" from Mrs. Duckett to Mr. W. Spencer Barrow, late of Torrisholme, near Lancaster.

|    |                                     |                |      |             |           |  |  |                             |                           |
|----|-------------------------------------|----------------|------|-------------|-----------|--|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 35 | Settle<br>January<br>1860<br>Settle | Phineas Butler | Male | 47<br>years | Innkeeper | Catarrh<br>10 weeks<br>Enteritis<br>48 hours<br>at death | Stephen Wilman<br>Present at the death<br>Settle | Substant<br>January<br>1860 | John Cowburn<br>Registrar |
|----|-------------------------------------|----------------|------|-------------|-----------|--|--|-----------------------------|---------------------------|

Phineas left a substantial £450 to Jane and she arranged for a fine gravestone. Phineas' death was just three years after that of his first wife.

*In memory of Phineas Butler of Settle who died January 12th 1860 aged 47 years, E13.*



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Jane continued to run the Talbot Inn with her sister Susannah for ten years becoming the second wife of stonemason and builder **Lawrence Hodgson** who also died soon after their marriage. After Lawrence's death, Jane continued to run his business and made a considerable amount of money from it. In the Victorian era of sexism and misogyny, Jane defied the odds. Jane is buried on the Old graveyard D33 with her sister Susannah and brother-in-law William Foster.

*In Loving Memory of Jane widow of the late Lawrence Hodgson who died Jan 10th 1900 aged 83 years also of William Foster died Oct 28th 1904 aged 67 years also Susannah widow of William Foster died April 26th 1917 aged 78 years, Old D33*



## Phineas Butler, unlucky railway worker

This Phineas was the illegitimate son of beerseller Phineas' cousin **Sarah Butler**. Sarah was the daughter of another **Phineas Butler** who lived in Coniston Cold/Gargrave area. Sarah's mum, **Ellen Barker**, died at Sarah's birth and dad Phineas had died by the time she was 12. Sarah's son Phineas was born in 1857, and she also had a daughter **Mary Ann**, also illegitimate, born in 1859. Sarah was unmarried and worked as a domestic servant. In 1861, she worked as a servant for **William Towler**, the innkeeper of the White Horse. With no family of her own, Sarah would have struggled to bring up her children. **John Moorby** was a lowly agricultural labourer who lived in Giggleswick with his wife **Betty Green** and just one son called Thomas. In an extraordinary demonstration of benevolence, John and Betty took on a household of six illegitimate children (no doubt with some financial compensation) including Phineas and Mary Ann.

In 1876, aged 20, Phineas was taken to court for poaching on the evidence of PC Blossom who found them with poaching nets. As there was no proof of the intention to poach they were let off – lucky![1].

lands for an unlawful purpose. The P.C. stated that on the night of the 15th inst. he observed the two defendants on the top of Belle Hill, coming from the direction of the lime kilns, and proceed down the Hill into the village. He followed them, and challenged them with having been on lands in pursuit of game. This, however, they both denied. On the officer

The building of the railways provided an opportunity for Phineas - in the 1881 census he was a 'railway repairer' based at Hellifield. In 1885, aged 28, Phineas married **Matilda Frost**. Tragically less than a year later, on 2 March 1886, Phineas was involved in a fatal accident while he was clearing snow off the lines. The newspaper report [2] seems more concerned about the inconvenience to the passenger traffic than about Phineas' death. His funeral card makes reference to his life cut short and to his dearly beloved wife. 'Farewell dear wife, my life is past, you loved me dearly to the last. Grieve not for me but do prepare for heaven – be this your greatest care'.

However, within a couple of months his poor bereaved widow had left for New York with a

**FATAL ACCIDENT NEAR SETTLE.**  
Yesterday morning Phineas Butler, aged 28 years, was clearing the snow from the points of the up main line at Hellifield Junction, when he was knocked down and killed. The Settle and Carlisle line was cleared on Monday evening, and yesterday the traffic was resumed, the passenger trains, however, running late. Towards evening the wind rose, and a second block appears to have occurred between Hawes Junction and Dent. The slow train due at Settle at 6.53 last night had not left Hawes Junction at ten o'clock. The passenger traffic is completely demoralised. More snow fell during the day.

In Affectionate Remembrance .  
OF  
**PHINEAS BUTLER,**  
OF HELLIFIELD, ^  
WHO DIED MARCH 2nd, 1886,  
Aged 29 Years ;  
And was interred at Ascension Church, Settle, on the 5th.

tailor called **Robert West**. Phineas is buried in an unmarked grave *Old A55*.

What of Phineas' sister Mary Ann? Mary Ann worked at the mill and then married local lad **William Heelis**. William worked as a coachman for the inns in Settle. They didn't have children. Mary Ann and William are buried in the same grave as her brother Phineas, *Old AX55*.

William Heelis' family had its fair share of tragedy. He was one of three children of an agricultural labourer **Henry Heelis** and his wife **Grace**. They scraped a living in the poor houses on Albert Hill. In census returns, William's sister Jane was described as an 'idiot' and spent some years in Giggleswick Workhouse (the only medical provision available for the poor) and died in Menston Asylum aged 38.

William's brother **Richard Heelis** worked in the limestone quarries. His wife **Mary Ann** had seven children, although four died in infancy. Their daughter **Grace Ethel Heelis** began a life in domestic service, working for the *Harger family*. On 20 March 1907, Ethel went missing after visiting her parents [3]. By the 16th April, her body had been discovered in the River Ribble in Wigglesworth too badly decomposed to tell whether there were any marks of violence [2]. Presumably Ethel had been washed down stream from Settle. She had recently been diagnosed as anaemic and suffered from 'sleeplessness and hysteria' by *Dr Hyslop*. There was no provision for mental health care in those days – a stiff upper lip was usually recommended. Grace Ethel and several of the Heelis family are buried in the unmarked grave *Old AX54*, next to Phineas and Mary Ann.

**SETTLE MYSTERY SOLVED.**  
**RIBBLE GIVES UP ITS DEAD.**

## Black sheep, **Phineas Butler**

**Benjamin Butler**, born in 1812 was the son of the original patriarch, Phineas Butler born in 1744 and his second wife, Elizabeth Fell who was 37 years his junior. Benjamin's wife **Anne Harrison** had several children including another Phineas, in 1853 and a daughter Charity. They lived at Old Ing, Easington between Gisburn and Slaidburn. Benjamin made a good living and died a wealthy man.



Son Phineas started work as a farm labourer and then moved to Manchester, working as a carter. When he was 31 in December 1884, he married a farmer's daughter Rhoda Holgate and they moved to live at Lostock Hall, west of Bolton and they had four children. However, incredibly and disturbingly, in February 1889, Phineas was convicted of 'carnally knowing a girl above the age of 13 and under the age of 16' and was imprisoned for 9 months with hard labour. (In case you are wondering, this is definitely the right person – with such a distinctive name there is no mistaking him)

Having at Lostock, on the 21st February, 1889, unlawfully and carnally known a certain girl to wit, one Mary Crady, she being then above the age of thirteen years and under the age of sixteen years to wit, of the age of thirteen years and seven months.

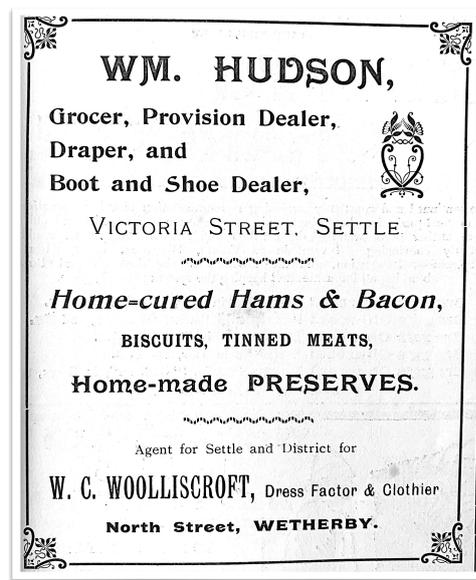
|    |                |  |            |
|----|----------------|--|------------|
| 37 | Phineas Butler | of felonies  | } 9 months |
| 38 | Phineas Butler | carnally knowing a girl above the age of 13 under the age of 16 years. (S. 5. Criminal Law Amendment Act 1885) |            |

There was no such thing as a sex offender's register in this days and the sanction seems quite lenient by today's standards. By a law in 1823 it was legal to marry at the age of 14 for boys and

12 for girls. It wasn't until the 1929 Marriage Act that this was changed to 16 for both girls and boys.

Poor **Mary Crady** was 13 at the time. At the time of the 1881 census she was in Bolton workhouse, presumably orphaned. At the time of the following 1891 census she was working in domestic service, aged 15. Phineas's wife lived apart from him in subsequent census returns! Rhoda died in 1907 aged 42, Phineas lived to the ripe old age of 73.

Benjamin's and Anne's daughter **Elizabeth Butler** married a grocer, **William Hudson**, and they lived on Victoria Street in Settle [LSA]. They are buried together in the unmarked Old KX32. Benjamin's and Anne's daughter **Charity Butler** remained a spinster and worked as a cook at Taitlands in Stainforth. She is buried in an unmarked grave at Holy Ascension in the New graveyard BX30, perhaps spending her last years with sister Elizabeth.



## Two Phineas Butlers, of Rathmell

Father Phineas, born 1807, and son **Phineas Butler**, born 1861 in Rathmell descended from Henry Butler, a son of the patriarch Phineas Butler. Phineas 1807 was working with the (beer seller) Phineas in Kirkby Malham at the time of the 1841 census. Soon after that census his father, Henry, died and Phineas inherited farmland behind Cappleside in Rathmell. Phineas married (the much younger) **Alice Parsons** who gave him six children, the youngest son being Phineas 1861. Father Phineas died in 1867, aged 60. Phineas (jnr) remained unmarried and spent his life living with two other unmarried siblings. He died in 1919 aged 58 having spent his last few years at Giggleswick Workhouse, probably for medical care. They are all buried in Rathmell graveyard in an unmarked grave.



## There's always one, **Phineas Butler**

The patriarch Phineas Butler, born in 1744 had another son called Robert. Robert moved to Barrowford. His wife **Ann Johnson** had a son Phineas who died in infancy. He was followed by a son James who worked as a plasterer in Barrowford. James had at least four children with his first wife Susannah, including Phineas born in 1837. Phineas followed his father, becoming a plasterer. Father Robert died when Phineas was 22, just after his marriage to poor Julia Stansfield in 1859. They had a son, who died in infancy and two daughters. To say Phineas enjoyed his alcohol is an understatement.

In 1862, Phineas was referred to as one of the 'worst characters in Barrowford' [5]. In 1864, he was referred to as '*an old offender*' and was fined 5 shillings for being drunk and disorderly [4]. In 1874 he refused to leave the Glenn View Inn [5]. In 1877 he '*lost the use of his legs*' [6]. There were plenty more. In 1890 he was fined 10 shillings plus

Phineas Butler and William Shaw, two of the worst characters in Barrowford, were charged by Police constable Mosley with the same offence, for which they had to pay costs.

Phineas Butler, an old offender, was charged by P.C. Hill, of Barrowford, with committing an assault upon him, on the evening of the 24th ultimo, at the George and Dragon Inn, Barrowford. He was fined 5s. and costs.

costs, having four previous offences [6]. This is very generous – there were at least seven.

REFUSING TO QUIT LICENSED PREMISES.—David Brown, Phineas Butler, Henry Beecroft, Robert Butler, and Arthur Ivison were summoned for this offence.—Mr. Baldwin appeared for the complainant, Peter Taylor, the landlord of the Glen View Inn.—The complainant stated that on the 4th inst., there was a foot race on his grounds, at Glen View. He was the stakeholder, with power to appoint a referee, and he did appoint one. When the race was over, the defendants and others came into the house. They appeared dissatisfied, and were very violent, and threatened the referee, who had not given his decision. They were so violent, and annoyed and hindered him in his business so much that he ordered them out; they refused to go until the referee had given his decision. He then sent for P.C. Bradshaw, who was on the grounds, to assist him in getting the defendants out. This they found it impossible to do.

Nelson; Phineas Butler, plasterer, Barrowford; and Thos. Walker, bread baker, Colne, were summoned for drunkenness. Tillotson had eight previous convictions recorded against him. He was fined 10s. and costs. Butler, who had four previous convictions, was similarly dealt with and Walker was ordered to pay costs.

Nelson, on the 17th inst.—Phineas Butler was fined 5s. and costs for being drunk and incapable, and lying on the road near Club-houses, in Barrowford, on the 19th inst. Defendant said he was not drunk but somehow had lost the use of his legs at that time.—Elizabeth Pickles, of Lee Marsden was charged with being drunk, and ordered to pay costs.

Phineas died in 1906, aged 69, just a year after his poor long suffering wife.



*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 [settleresearch@gmail.com](mailto:settleresearch@gmail.com). Latest news and events are on the Facebook page 'Settle Graveyard Project'.*

*Thanks to descendant John Armitstead for his help with this account.*

*Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Lancaster Gazette, 2 – Leeds Mercury, 3 – Hartlepool Daily Mail, 4 – Preston Herald, 5 – Burnley Advertiser, 6 – Burnley Express.*