

# World War I heroes

The church war memorial commemorates the lives of 46 men and women '*connected with this Parish who laid down their lives*' in WW1, 1914 - 1918, although includes the names of two men who died in 1919. The names on the Settle cenotaph are slightly different. Here, Settle Graveyard Project finds out more about them.

The average age at the time of death was 26, the youngest was 18 and the oldest 38. Two 19 year olds died on exactly the same day – 23 August 1918. 1918 was a bad year – 15 men died with 13 in 1917 and 8 in 1916



Rank: The majority, 29, were Privates but there were also Gunners, Riflemen, Corporals, Lieutenants, a Sergeant, an Able seaman, a Captain, a Wireless Telegraph Operator and a Nurse.

17 of the men were assigned to the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment. 35 of the men were killed on the Western Front. 24 were 'killed in action', 10 'died of wounds, 5 were reported missing, presumed dead. 2 died of pneumonia, 1 each of dysentery, heatstroke and shell-shock and 1 was killed when his ship was attacked by a German submarine. 1 man died during demobilisation waiting to be sent home.

Before enlisting the men worked in a range of occupations including mill workers, railway workers, farm servants and gardeners, errand boys, schoolteachers, bank clerks, a fishmonger and a singer/actor. 11 of the men were married with another '*living with an unmarried woman*'. 15 children were left without a dad. A number of men were buried or commemorated on gravestones in our graveyard.

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## WWI fallen heroes, in alphabetical order

**Private George Abra** (no photo) of the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment was the son of **John Abra**, a quarryman and his wife **Jane Ellis** who came to Settle from Norfolk for work. George was brought up in Victoria Street and Tatham's Yard in Settle. He was killed in action on the Western Front 28 August 1918, aged 22.



**Gunner John Barrett** (no photo) of the Royal Garrison Artillery was the son of **David Barrett** and his wife **Ann Sewell** and was brought up in Appleby. He worked as a railway clerk in Settle and lived at Bishopsdale Court before he signed up. He was killed by shell fire in the Balkans on 22 April 1917, aged 27. He is also remembered on the Midland Railway War Memorial at Derby.



**Private John Edward (Jack) Bell** of the Canadian Infantry was the son of **Thomas Bell**, a carter and his wife **Mary Martha Briggs**. John Edward was brought up by his father and step-mother **Mary Ann Hill** as his mother died at his birth. The family lived at The Folly at the time of the 1901 census and then on Castle Hill. John Edward first served with the East Lancashire Regiment but was transferred soon afterwards. Jack was killed in Poperinge, France on 14 June 1916 as part of the Canadian Expeditionary Force, aged 27. Thomas and step-mum **Mary** are buried in *Old L37* with a son.



**Private Robert William Bell** of the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment was a first cousin once removed to John Edward Bell. He was one of 10 children of **Joseph Bell**, a carpenter and his second wife, **Margaret Lyall** who lived on Chapel Hill in Settle. Joseph's first wife had been **Sarah Lyall**, Margaret's younger sister, with whom he had

three children before she died. Joseph and Margaret are buried in an unmarked grave in *Old AX47*.

Robert William, also a joiner, working with his dad, joined 'Tunstill's Men' in September 1914 and never had any leave before he was killed in action on the Western Front on 5 October 1916 aged 30. Before leaving, Robert fathered a son, **Wilfred Reginald Charlesworth**, with a local barmaid, **Myra Charlesworth**. When Myra moved away to Barnsley Wilfred was adopted by widow **Clarissa (Cox) Bradley** who had just lost her own son in the war. Wilfred became a farm bailiff at Hornby Castle.



**Private George Schorar Bellas** of the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment was born in Luddenden near Halifax, the son of **George Anderson Bellas**, a railway labourer at Bolton Abbey and his wife **Lydia Schorah**. They later lived in Skipton. George worked as a tank wagon driver employed by the American Oil Company who posted him to Settle. He married **Edith Wroe** and had a daughter **Amy Ethel** and a son **George William** who he never saw. George was 'killed in action' on 12 February 1917 on the Western Front, aged 24. George was the 2nd cousin 2x removed to **Mark Bellas Bolt**, the railway signal man buried in *Old B71*. After George's death Edith married **Moses Boothman**, a Skipton carter.



**2nd Lieutenant Harley Bentham** of the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment was the only child of **Thomas Hardacre Bentham**, a railway signaller and his wife **Elizabeth Smith**. Thomas' father, **Richard Bentham**, was the stationmaster at Giggleswick Station for decades. Thomas, Elizabeth and Harley lived at East View in Settle but later moved to Hellifield. Harley died of wounds on the Western Front on 16 September 1918, age 23. Harley was one of the five (out of eight) staff of Martin's Bank who lost their lives in the war and so appears on the Martin's Bank roll of honour.



**Private William George Bradley** of the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment was one of five children of Lawrence Bradley, a quarryman and his wife Clarissa Cox. Lawrence died when William George was just 6. The family lived on the Green, Upper Settle. William George worked as a packer before he signed up.



George William died of blood poisoning arising from wounds received in action. His left arm had been broken when he attempted to rescue a wounded officer. When she heard the news of his injuries mum Clarissa went over to Boulogne and stayed with him until he was buried. He died in the No 13 Stationary Hospital at Boulogne on 9 September 1915. He was 21. Soon after this Clarissa adopted **Wilfred Reginald Charlesworth**, the illegitimate son of **Robert William Bell** (above) who also died in the war. There is some logic to that!

**Lieutenant William Henry Brassington** of the Tank Corps was the son of **Thomas William Brassington** and his wife **Mary Ellen Bulcock**. The Brassington family ran the extremely successful joinery business at Bridge End (right next to the war memorial) for over a century. They lived in Ribble View. William Henry was apprenticed to a mason before signing up.



William Henry was killed in action at Baupaume on the Western Front 25 August 1918, aged 26. His tank was struck while he was driving and he was killed almost instantly. William Henry is remembered on the large family gravestone in Giggleswick graveyard.



**Corporal Frank Bulcock** of the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment was the son of **Thomas Allen Bulcock** and his wife **Rose Ann Cokell** who lived in Upper Settle, living for a while at Wapping Cottage, the Old Primitive Methodist Chapel. Thomas was a cloth examiner and then gardener. Frank worked as a clerk for a coal agent before he signed up. Frank married **Emily Kitchener** a few months before his death. She remarried, to widow **Herbert Edmondson**.



Frank died of a shrapnel wound in his back whilst in the trenches in Flanders, Belgium on 19 December 1915, aged 25. If he had survived one more week he was due to go on leave. Frank was the cousin of Gunner John Cokell, also remembered on this memorial.

**Private George Robert Bullock** of the Machine Gun Corps Infantry was the son of **Robert Bullock**, a carter at the Castle Hill corn mill, and his wife **Mary Ann Thomas** and they lived in Town Head Cottages at the top of Castle Hill. Robert and Mary Ann are buried in the unmarked grave *Old DX7*. George Robert worked in Craven Lime works before he enlisted. George Robert died, aged 20, on 18 July 1917 from heat stroke in Mesopotamia (now Iraq).



**Private Harry Bullock** of the Lancashire Fusiliers was a second cousin of George Robert Bullock above. Harry was the son of another **Harry Bullock**, a carter and his wife **Mary Agnes Winder**. They lived on High Road behind the Folly. Harry (Snr) and Mary are buried in the unmarked *New H28*. Harry went missing on the Western Front on 28 March 1918, aged just 18. His parents placed advertisements requesting any news about their son regularly until August 1919 when he was eventually presumed dead.



**Private Herbert Clark** of the East Yorkshire Regiment was the son of **Richard Clark**, a baker and confectioner and his wife **Mary Capstick**. Richard descended from another Richard Clark, a Settle builder and farmer. The family lived in Chapel Square and Kirkgate. Herbert had worked as a Postman at Bell Busk for four years, delivering to Airton and Malham before he enlisted and so was mentioned in the Memorial Books of the Post Office.



Herbert was one of five men from his regiment who were 'officially presumed killed in action' after the Battle of the Somme on 14 July 1916 aged 24. His life was commemorated on his parents' stone in *Old H49*.



*In loving memory of Mary wife of Richard Clark died Jan 16th 1918 aged 67 years also of Richard Clark died June 6th 1927 aged 76 years. Also of Herbert their son killed in action July 14th 1916 aged 24 years.*



**Gunner John Cokell** of the Royal Field Artillery was the cousin of Corporal Frank Bulcock above. He was one of eight children of **Samuel Cokell**, a railway platelayer and his wife **Sarah Ewbank** and one of four sons that went to war. While Samuel worked on the railway Sarah ran the Albert Hill lodging house in Upper Settle for a while and then the family moved to Castle Hill. John worked as a railway porter and then at Craven Lime Works before he enlisted. He had married **Emma Julie Myatt**, who was working as a nurse at the workhouse, two years before his death. Emma remarried to **Edward Pease**, a grocer and they lived in Hull.



John was killed in action on the Western Front 13 August 1917, aged 23. His superior said, *'I have lost one of my best telephonists and a really good man. . . Your son was a true soldier and has died a soldier's death, serving his King and Country.'* His parents were also presented with a parchment certificate which read, *'For coolness and devotion to duty during the recent operations near Ypres, especially during the last week of July 1917. . .*



*Whenever a line had to be laid under shell fire, or a particularly unpleasant job had to be done, he always volunteered for the worst work and has given encouragement to those around him.'* John is remembered on his parents' stone in *Old C22*

*In loving memory Rose Ann daughter of Samuel and Sarah Cokell died March 2nd 1897 aged 7 years. Samuel Cokell died May 27th 1939 aged 79 years. Sarah Cokell died 14th May 1919 aged 54. Also John their son killed inaction in Flanders August 13th 1917 aged 23 years, Old C22*



Private David Herbert John Cracknell (no photo) of the Hampshire Regiment was the son of Robert John Cracknell and his wife Jane Ellen Ellis who came to Settle from Norfolk to find work. Robert worked at the mill and then as a greengrocer and lived in Proctor's Row and Craven Cottages.



After serving as a Private in the Hampshire Regiment during the war David Herbert was waiting to come home in 'demobilising furlough' and it was during this that he died, on 26 October 1919 aged 24, but the details are unknown. Before he signed up David had worked as an errand boy for Walker's Chemist so was a long way down the priority list of occupations for sending home. He is buried with his parents in *Old D28*

*To the Dear Memory of Ethel daughter of Robert and Jane Ellen Cracknell died May 2nd 1900 aged 2½ years also of their dear son, David Herbert John died Oct 26th 1919 aged 24 years. In the midst of life we are in death. Also Jane Ellen his wife died Jan 7th 1951 age 80 years. Also of Robert Cracknell died Jan 8th 1948 aged 78 years, D28*



Private George Creighton of the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment was the son of Ann Creighton who later married William Baynes, a railway platelayer, when George was three. They lived at the Black Horse cottages next to the Inn at Giggleswick. George worked as a grocer's assistant at Tatham's department store on Cheapside before he enlisted and married Ethel Bateman



on Boxing Day 1911. She remained in Settle for many years after George died and is buried in the unmarked *New EX5* with her sister. George was killed in action on the Western Front on 15 April 1918, aged 36.

**Private Ernest Dickinson** of the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment was one of five sons of **Henry Dickinson**, a railway platelayer and his wife **Sarah Robinson** who lived-in Upper Settle. Henry died in 1911 when Ernest was 18. Henry and Sarah are buried in the unmarked grave *Old GX21*.



Ernest worked as a gardener at Anley Hall, owned by the **Birkbeck** family, before he signed up so would have been encouraged by the Birkbecks to do his duty. Ernest went missing, presumed killed on the Western Front on 29 April 1918, aged 25

**Private Edward Ellershaw** of the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment was one of three children of **Jane Ellershaw** who later became the third wife of **Richard Lord**. Richard died in 1898 and, just before the war, Jane moved to Nelson with the family. Edward was a railway labourer employed on the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway at Nelson before he enlisted. He was killed by shrapnel whilst at his post on the Western Front on 7 July 1916, aged 26.



Edward was the half brother of **Private Joseph Ronald Lord** and the maternal cousin of **Private Richard Wallbank**. Joseph Ronald of the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment of Nelson, formerly of Settle, was presumed dead at Ypres on the Western Front on 2 March 1916, just months before Edward Ellershaw. For some reason Joseph's life was not commemorated on this memorial.



**Private Richard Wallbank** was the son of **John Wallbank**, a farmer and his wife **Nancy Ellershaw**, Jane's sister. Richard was brought up in Clapham but the family also moved to Nelson before the war. Richard died on 23 August 1915, aged just 18, one of the earliest of the war dead. He was on the Hospital Ship *Neuralia* when died of wounds received in the Dardanelles (also known as the Strait of Gallipoli) in north west Turkey. Richard was buried at Sea. Richard's father had died just a month before. That's a lot of deaths for the Ellershaw sisters to cope with.



**Corporal Ernest Foster** of the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment was one of 10 children of **Eli Foster**, a railway platelayer and his wife **Elizabeth Ann Marsden**. Four sons served in the war. Ernest was born in Long Preston but the family soon moved to live in Settle, in Junction House in Upper Settle and then Kirkgate. Ernest was also a railway platelayer and a miner at Ingleton Colliery before he enlisted. In 1915 Ernest had married **Doris Elizabeth Harling** and they lived in Skipton and had two children. Ernest died of wounds on the Western Front on 4 May 1918, aged 29. Doris married again, to **Thomas Bradley** and they are buried in the unmarked *New HX30*.



**Private George Frederick (Fred) Frost** of the Royal Fusiliers was one of 13 children of **Matthew Frost**, an engine driver at the Shed cotton mill and his wife **Mary Jane Horsfield**. Mary Jane died when Fred was just six and, unfortunately, the family split up. Fred lived with his older siblings, many of whom found work on the railways. Fred was a quarryman before employment on the railway. Fred died on 29 September 1915, aged 31 on the Western Front. His life is also commemorated on the Midland Railway War Memorial at Derby.



**Private Harold Goss** of the Northumberland Fusiliers was the son of **John Goss**, a painter and his wife **Emily Reyner** from Leeds. John died when Harold was just 6.



Harold worked as a mechanic but when he married **Emma Maria Reilly**, in 1904, became a fishmonger. They lived in Victoria Street and Chapel Street, Settle. They had six children but three died in infancy.

Harold was killed by a German shell in the back of his head during the battle of the Somme on 5 July 1917, aged 36. Emma Maria remarried. Her new husband was a widower, **Thomas Holmes**, of the Settle plumbing dynasty. They had two children and then moved to Leeds.

**Private Alfred Thomas Gower** (no photo) of the East Lancashire Regiment was the son of **Alfred Gower** and his wife **Emily Lamsley**. The Gower ancestors were all military men and Alfred (Snr) was born in India, according to some census returns. Emily died when Alfred Thomas was just 8. During the early 1900s Alfred Thomas met **Jane Dugdale** of Ambleside and they had four children. At the time of the 1911 census they lived in Albert Hill, Settle and Alfred Thomas was a '*tailor and army pensioner*' but obviously responded to the call for servicemen.

Alfred Thomas was reported missing, presumed dead on 1 July 1916, aged 35 on the Western Front. In documentation Jane was described as an '*unmarried wife*'. Three years later Jane (actually) married Alfred Thomas' younger brother **Josiah Walter Gower**, a '*house and ship painter*'. Josiah, Jane and Alfred Thomas' daughter Emily are buried in the unmarked *New EX36*.

**Private Charles Henry Hallmark** (no photo) of the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment was born in Grange-over-Sands, the son of **Samuel Hallmark**, a gardener and his wife **Mary Maria Hadwin**. In 1912 Charles Henry married **Lizzie Salt** from Stone. Charles Henry enlisted at Keighley and perhaps spent some time in Settle before that? There are no other obvious reasons why he would be remembered on this memorial. Charles Henry died in Nottingham Isolation Hospital on 6 April 1918, aged 33 and is commemorated on a huge memorial there too. Lizzie married again, to police sergeant and widow **James Clewer**.

**Private Francis Halpin** was in the Labour Corps which was formed in 1917 for manual and skilled labour to work docks and railways. They were known to conscript men who were too unhealthy for fighting – Francis had been rejected by the Medical Board on several previous occasions, related to his weight of 16 stones. Oh dear. Francis was shipped out to France within 2 weeks of enlisting.



Francis was one of 7 children of **John Halpin** and his wife **Mary Kelly** who were both from County Clare, Ireland. During the 1880s the family came to Langcliffe to work at the limeworks and then John took up plastering. Francis was talented on stage, with '*a splendid baritone voice*', not only for the Settle Amateur Operatic Society but also performing professionally with the Carla Rosa Opera Company all over the world. Francis married **Lucy Elsie Green** from Hull in 1916 and they lived in Ellwood Cottages in Langcliffe, with Francis still working as a vocalist. Having just returned from a tour abroad Francis was on stage



performing in Sheringham Norfolk when he was arrested '*for being an absentee from the army*', fined 40 shillings and immediately handed over to a military escort. He officially signed up on 10 March 1917.

After just two week's active service, on 16 July 1917, Frank was admitted to the Dykebar War Hospital in

Paisley in Scotland, directly from the French Expeditionary Force with 'a history of loss of memory, restlessness' and blood in his urine and was 'suffering from well marked general paralysis of the insane'. The following day he developed bronchial pneumonia and died, aged 38. 'His illness was aggravated by active service'. There is no doubt about that. Poor Francis was obviously not cut out for military service. Francis was brought back for burial with his parents in *Old H18* after a Catholic funeral service.

On admission he was found to be suffering from well marked general paralysis of the insane. The following day he developed bronchial pneumonia, gradually sank and died at 8-15 p.m. on 17/7/17. His illness was aggravated by Active Service.

***Sacred to the Memory of Francis, the Beloved Husband of Elsie Halpin who died July 17th 1917 Aged 38, also Mary, mother of the above who died July 2nd 1924, aged 89, also John, father of the above, died Feb ..th, 1927, aged 89***



Private 'Wheeler' Harold Hodgson of the Australian Army Service Corps was the youngest of three children of Samuel Hodgson, a cabinet maker and his wife Ann Sutton, both of whom were deaf. Harold worked as a 'wheeler' at Brassington's mill but then, in 1912, set sail for Perth, Australia on steamship SS Otway. Harold signed up to the Australian Imperial Forces in 1916.



In 1919 Harold was in training in Forvant Camp in Wiltshire where pneumonia was prevalent. He died of pneumonia on 5 February, age 33. He was brought back to Settle buried with his father and a sister-in-law in *Old G53*.



He has the only Commonwealth War Gravestone for WW1 in the graveyard. Other members of the family are in adjacent graves.



***Australian Imperial Forces 5732 Private H. Hodgson Aust. Army Service Corps 5th February 1919 age 33. Also Nellie Hodgson 25th Dec 1912 age 29 and Samuel Hodgson 9th Sept 1916 age 81, Old G53***

**2nd Lieutenant John Hodgson** of the Durham Light Infantry was the eldest of six children of **Richard Samuel Hodgson**, the blacksmith on Castle Hill and his wife **Sarah Ann Taylor** and was born 18 months before they married. John's brother **Robert Hodgson** also served in the war.



In letters home John reported, *"We have now been in the reserve trenches for a week, and my word! We have been getting it hot from shellfire. We have lost a few horses, and one of my comrades has been killed and two men wounded. Last night we did a move, and had been gone about ten minutes when a shell burst beside my horse, killing him instantly. My hat was blown off, although I had my chinstrap round my jaw, and a button was blown off my tunic. I can assure you things were warm. It is somewhat dreary with no newspapers to read to see how things are progressing."*

John was killed on 27 October 1918, aged 25 *'in machine gun-fire whilst gallantly leading his men into action at the crossing of the Piave on the Italian front'* north-west of Venice. John had returned from leave just a few days before and *'volunteered to go up to the front when he could have remained in the base.'* His life is commemorated on his parents' grave **Old H56**

*In loving remembrance of Sarah Ann beloved wife of Richard Samuel Hodgson died April 4th 1920 in her 43rd year, also John son of the above killed in action Oct 27th 1918 in his 26th year, also Robert son the above died Dec 7th 1922 in his 28th year. Rest in Peace. Also the above Richard Samuel Hodgson died June 14th 1948 in his 81st year, also James his brother died Sep 11th 1956 aged 82 years.*



**Private Peter Hodgson** of the Northumberland Fusiliers was one of ten children of **Henry Wilson Hodgson**, a farmer and his wife **Mary Ann Bramwell** who lived in Whittington, south of Kirkby Lonsdale. Peter had a disjointed childhood. Henry died when Peter was three and Mary Ann remarried, this time to **James Tallon**, another farmer and had three more children living in Wennington/Wray. Peter worked as a farm servant



before enlisting in Settle. Peter died of wounds on the Western Front 17 February 1917, aged 25.

**Private Robert Francis Jones** of the Grenadier Guards was oldest surviving child of **Robert Francis Jones** and his wife **Elizabeth Winskill**. Elizabeth was the daughter of **John Winskill**, the land agent for **Walter Morrison MP** at Malham Tarn Hall. Robert's father was a schoolmaster in Croydon but died of pneumonia in 1907, aged 36 when Robert Francis (Jnr) was 9. Mother Elizabeth worked as a nurse (for over 25 years) in London and Robert and so his sister were brought up by grandparents at Malham Tarn Hall.



Robert Francis was killed in action on the Western Front on 23 August 1918, aged 19. He was one of the five staff of the Martin's Bank who lost their lives in the war and is remembered on their roll of honour.



**Private George Robert Millen** of the East Yorkshire Regiment the son of **Charles Robert Archibald Millen** and his wife **Sarah Ellen Parker** who lived on High Street and Well Hill in Settle. Charles was a stone mason's labourer and came to Settle from London. Tragically Charles took his own life in 1907 when George Robert was six, leaving his pregnant wife with five other children.



George Robert worked as a farm servant before enlisting. In the war he served as a 'runner', which is a particularly difficult and dangerous job taking messages to and from the Front. After 16 months he was killed in action during the Battle of Arras on 23 August 1918, aged 19. Several family members, including sister **Lena (Millen) Maunders** were buried in *Old D46*.



**Rifleman Richard Monk** of the King's Royal Rifle Corps was one of at least four illegitimate children of **Elizabeth Monk** who sometimes lived by a 'married' name of **Cockerill**. A Mr Cockerill may have been the father of Richard's older brother, **John Thomas Cockerill**. Meanwhile Elizabeth scraped a living together as a charwoman living on Albert Hill. A daughter, **Margaret**, was killed aged 2 when she was struck by a horse and cart while her mother was working. Richard worked for **Miss Pickard** at Overdale School before he enlisted. He was killed in action on the Western Front 11 April 1917, aged 18.



Richard's half-brother **John Thomas Cockerill**, a farm labourer also signed up on 8 September 1914. He was described as 'well developed' but was discharged on 20 October 1914 after reports of being absent without leave and eventually as '*not likely to serve as an efficient soldier*' with a '*dilated heart*'. Elizabeth was buried in the unmarked grave *New LX22* when she died aged 78.

Richard's cousin **Lance Corporal Thomas Monk** of the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment was the son of **Thomas Monk** and his wife **Lavinia Pryor** and they lived in Langcliffe. Thomas (Jnr) was killed in action on the Western Front on 15 September 1916, aged 29. Thomas worked as a quarryman and had married **Lily Watson** a year before he died. Thomas was not remembered on this memorial.



**Lance Corporal John (Jack) Middleton Morphet** of the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment was the son of **Thomas Morphet** and his wife **Alice Middleton** who were cow keepers from Dent.

Jack moved to live in Craven Terrace in Settle, boarding with the **Close family** and then 2 Mayville Terrace, working as a school attendance officer at most of the local schools. He was an outstanding fullback in football playing for Kendal, Sedbergh, Aston Villa and Burnley as well as Settle. Jack, known as



'curlie' was also an excellent fast medium bowler in cricket, '*becoming a terror to batsmen*'. In a letter upon his death, '*Whilst assiduous to duty he did not fail to take a lively interest in the recreative part of our life out here, and his hand and eye had not lost their cunning in a game of cricket. It may be said that a cricket ball was found in his pack, and I am sure he must have carried it a good few miles. Jack has played the game, he has taken up his stand in the innings and fought for his country; he has been bowled out. He did not suffer – it was short and swift.*'

Jack voluntarily signed up even though he was above the legal enlistment age limit. John was serving at Ypres on the Western Front 2 August 1915. He was fatally shot while repairing a parapet with sandbags. He was 38. Jack's obituary mentions that a cricket ball was found in his kitbag after his death and, saddest of all, that Jack was engaged to Settle's **Lily Anne Close** daughter of the family he lodged with, and the wedding planned for his return from the war. She remained a spinster and was a nurse for **Dr Charles William Buck** in his latter years.

**Private John Packard** of the Sherwood Foresters was one of four children of **Adelia Packard**, from Derbyshire and **William Hardacre**, a house painter living on Albert Hill in Settle. William's wife, **Anne Hawkins**, was Irish and disappeared from records after giving birth to several children, perhaps returning to Ireland? Adelia became the baby sitter, housekeeper and '*unmarried wife*'. William and Adelia are buried in the unmarked *Old BX74*. John worked as a grocer's assistant for **Thomas Clark** at the corner of Cheapside in Settle and had been a member of the Cadets before enlisting in Keighley. He was known for his integrity and cheerful and obliging nature. John was killed in action on the Western Front on 26 September 1917, aged 20 but looking much younger.



**Private James Parker** of the Border Regiment was the only child of **Joseph Parker**, a successful farmer at the Lodge farm and his third wife **Elizabeth Marsden Ayrton**. James already had six children via previous

marriages and Elizabeth had five. James, also a farmer, married **Hannah Elizabeth Haining** in 1909 and they had a son and a daughter.



Lodge Farm was owned by the Birkbeck family who led recruitment for the war and so James would have been expected to volunteer for King and Country. He was recruited under the Derby Scheme of 1915 which urged men aged between 18 and 41 who were not in a reserved occupation to attest. James died of dysentery in a hospital at Salonica (Greece) on 6 July 1918, aged 32. James' wife was buried with her parents in *Old E15*.



**Sergeant Charles Peachey** of the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment was the son of **Charles Frederick Peachey**, who worked in the Bradford woollen mills and his wife **Jane Stott**. Charles came to Settle to work as a dresser at King's Mill and married **Ellen Woolerton** in 1916. They lived in Whelpstone Grove. Charles served for two years and seven months before he was killed in action, alongside two other men from his regiment, on the Western Front on 11 December 1918, aged 31. He had previously been awarded the Military Medal for gallant conduct. In 1947, aged 57, Ellen married again, this time to **Thomas Preston Lord** and they were buried together in the unmarked *New IX44*.



**Captain Thomas Haworth Preston** of the East Lancashire Regiment was the only surviving son of **John Preston** and his wife **Elizabeth Mary Procter**, 25 years John's junior, who brought him up at Mearbeck, just outside Settle. Mearbeck was one of the largest farms in the area, some 600 acres. The Prestons and Procters were both wealthy and well respected families. Thomas Howarth Preston's only brother, **2nd Lieutenant John**



**Starkie Preston** had died in 1900 in Dewetsdorp in the Boer South African War, aged 21. Before joining the military Thomas worked hard to help the restoration of Long Preston Church, buying oak from Stamford and then storing and preparing it at Mearbeck.



Thomas Howarth Preston had previously served throughout the South African War and was mentioned in dispatches and received the Queen's Medal. He was awarded the Royal Geographical Society's diploma in 1913. Thomas was killed in action in Flanders on 17 November 1914, aged 33. The King and Queen wrote to his widowed mother when he died, '*The King and Queen deeply regret the loss you and the Army have sustained by the death of your son in the serving of his country. Their Majesties truly sympathise with you in your sorrow.*' It's likely other parents would have appreciated that too. Brother John and Thomas are remembered on their parents' stone in Giggleswick graveyard, B8/50 close to other family graves.

*In loving memory of John Preston of Mearbeck who died Feb'ry 12th 1883 aged 56. Also of Elizabeth Mary Preston widow of John Preston aged 66 years, died July 22nd 1916.*

*Also of John Starkie Preston, 2nd Lieut 1st Royal Scots (Lothian Reg't) elder son of the above who died at Dewetsdorp, South Africa, June 27th 1900 aged 21 years. Also of Thomas Howarth Preston, younger son of the above John Preston, Captain 1st East Lancashire Regiment, killed in action in Flanders 17th November 1914 aged 33 years.*



**Able-Seaman Sidney James Procter** of the Royal Naval Division and **Nurse Doris Jane Procter** of the Voluntary Aid Detachment were two of the six children of **James Procter**, (unrelated to the family above) a tailor on Duke Street, Settle and his wife **Mary Ann Close**. Sidney James worked as plumber's apprentice before he enlisted. He joined the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve in the Hawke Battalion in 1915. They joined the British Expeditionary Force in 1916 having fought at Gallipoli before then. Sidney (left) was invalided to the UK in March 1918. Once

recovered he re-joined the Reserve but was killed on the Western Front during the 100 days offensive by the allies which eventually broke the Hindenburg line. Sidney James died of wounds in a field hospital on 3rd September 1918, aged 24.

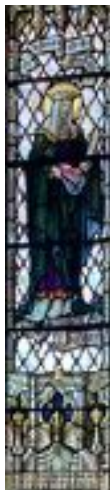


Doris enjoyed performing with the Settle Amateur Operatic Society (centre) and had a relationship with **Lance Corporal Ernest Woodhead** (right) of the Leicestershire Regiment who had moved to Settle in 1911 with the Police Force. He had won a good conduct award for stopping a runaway horse in the Market Place. Ernest was killed on 27 October 1917, aged 27 in a Canadian Casualty Clearing Station in France. Doris Jane received a letter explaining he had very badly wounded in his legs and he died soon afterwards. Doris Jane was recruited into the Voluntary Aid Detachment by her mother, the superintendent of Settle Nursing division. From November 1915 Doris was with the 5th Northern General Hospital, Leicester. She picked up septicaemia from nursing a soldier in France. She was brought back to Birmingham and died of pneumonia just weeks after her brother on 17 December 1918, aged 26.



The Five Sisters' Window in York Minster is dedicated as a war memorial to the women of the British Empire who lost their lives, 1914-1918. Doris is commemorated by name and service in St Nicholas' Chapel in the North Transept of the Minster. Doris was eventually accepted by the CWGC as a casualty of the Great War on 28 November 2017.

Doris and Sydney are remembered on a simple gravestone, *Old A6*, in Settle churchyard and in a stained glass window in the church,



illustrating Elizabeth of Hungary, a symbol of the nursing services, amongst others.

*In loving memory of Mabel Procter 1886 – 1887. Mary Ann Procter 1856 – 1917. Sidney James Procter 1894 – 1918. Doris Jane Procter 1892 – 1918. James Procter 1854 – 1940, A6*



*In memory of Sidney James Procter, Hawke Batt RND 3rd Sept MCMXV111 and Doris Jane Procter his sister Nurse VAD 17th Dec MCMXV111 who died in the service of their country.*

**Private Albert Ralph** of the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment was the oldest of ten children of **Alfred Ralph** and his wife **Sarah Margaret Jane Morphet**. They were farm servants at Austwick and then became builders living at Lower Croft Street in Settle. Sarah's parents were landlords at inns at Helwith Bridge and at Horton-in-Ribblesdale. Albert's parents are buried in *Old F63*



Albert worked as a farm servant at Selside before he enlisted. He died of wounds at Le Treport Hospital, near Dieppe in France on 21 November 1917, age 23. He had been wounded twice before but had recovered.

**Private John Francis (Frank) Thwaite** of the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment was the only child of **James Thwaite**, a cattle dealer's carter and his wife **Ann Allen** who lived in Long Preston. John Francis married **Ada Lawson** in Long Preston church in 1914 and they had a son, **John Thwaite** in 1916. They lived in High Street, Settle and John Francis worked as a butcher's assistant before he enlisted.



John Francis was killed in action on the Western Front on 9 August 1918, age 30. In 1921 Ada remarried, to Edwin Hayes.

**Rifleman Robert John Tomlinson** (no photo) King's Royal Rifle Corps was the youngest son of **William Tomlinson** and his wife **Mary Ann Darwen** from Helwith Bridge. Mary Ann died in 1888 when Robert John was just five and five siblings found themselves in Giggleswick workhouse. William disappeared off the radar but reappeared later in Liverpool. Robert John worked for many years as a farm servant at Stockdale Farm before enlisting in Settle.

Robert John died of wounds on the Western Front on 16 September 1916, aged 33. Robert John Tomlinson's brother **Lance Corporal William Tomlinson** (no photo) served with the Australian Imperial Forces. He also worked as a farm servant before he enlisted. He married **Jane Renton** in Liverpool in 1904 and they had a daughter. In July 1905 William went to an army training camp and was never seen by his wife again. In November 1908 William set sail for Australia while Jane lived with her uncles. On his documentation William listed his next of kin as his sister, refusing to name his wife as she *'had deserted him several years ago and had since been living with another man.'* However, an investigation by the Chief of Police found this was not the case and they named Jane instead, despite his objections!

From the report furnished from the Chief of Police, Ascrington, copy of which is attached, it would appear that Mrs. Tomlinson is a respectable, hardworking woman, and that the soldier's statement is entirely at fault.

William was serving with the British Expeditionary Force when he was killed in action in Passchendaele on 13 October 1917, aged 35, just months after his brother. He had been appointed to the position of Lance Corporal six days before. Upon his death a woman called **Gwen Herbert** from Wagga Wagga, New South Wales requested details as he was *'a lonely soldier who only had me to confide and console him.'*

**Private William Troughton** of the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment was the only son of **Thomas Troughton**, a tailor and his wife **Agnes Eleanor Parker** from Kendal. They moved to live in the Market Place in Settle and then moved to East View.

William was killed in action on the Western Front on 12 March 1917, age 20. He had recovered from shrapnel wounds on two previous occasions.



**Wireless Telegraph Operator George Edward Turner** of the Royal Navy was one of 6 children of **Robert Turner**, a tailor and his wife **Elizabeth Huthersall** who lived at Rock House on Castle Hill. Robert died when George Edward was 14. George Edward worked as a postman, learning his telegraphy skills, before he enlisted. George Edward was a member of the Parish Church Choir and of the Settle Amateur Operatic Society.



George Edward was one of 48 men killed whilst performing his duty as a Marconi operator on HMS Hogue, torpedoed by a single German submarine in the North Sea on 22 September 1914, aged 25. George Edward was the first casualty in the Settle district and was remembered on his parents' stone, *Old C59*



*In Loving Memory of Robert Turner died Dec 28th 1902 aged 47 years. Elizabeth, his wife who died March 1928, aged 67. George Edward their son drowned in the North Sea Sep 22nd 1914 Aged 25 years. Also of Harold and Charles who died in infancy. Old C59*



**Private Harry Marsden Walton** of the Coldstream Guards was the son of **Charles Walton**, a livery stables coachman and his wife **Mary Jane Marsden**. Charles met Mary Jane when he came to Settle for work on the 'new' Settle to Carlisle railway in the 1870s but moved to Sussex for work. Harry was a good athlete, and a member of the Blue Star Harriers at Cuckfield when 12 years old. The family moved back to Settle in the early 1900s. Harry worked as a locomotive cleaner before he enlisted at Blackburn.



Harry was reported missing after the Battle of Mons, Ypres, presumed dead on 29 October 1914, age 24. Harry is not commemorated on the Settle war memorial. His parents are buried in the unmarked grave *Old JX32*.

**Private Wilfred Wilkinson Whiteley** of the Northumberland Fusiliers was the eldest of three sons of **Walter Whiteley** and his wife **Margaret Annie Pickover**. All three sons served in the war. Walter worked as a Postman and Postmaster in Colne, Kirkby Lonsdale and then in Settle by the early 1900s.

Initially Wilfred joined the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment but transferred to the Fusiliers. Wilfred was reported to be a quiet, kind man and began his working life as a bank clerk for Martins Bank and was one of the five staff who lost their lives in the war – his life was also remembered on the Martin's Bank roll of honour.



Wilfred enlisted at Keighley died in a hospital in Glasgow of wounds inflicted on the Western Front on 28 September 1918, age 29. Wilfred was brought back to Settle and had a funeral service at the Wesleyan Chapel before burial at the church to the sound of the 'Last Post' and three volleys from the Giggleswick School OTC. Wilfred's mother died a year later and his father remarried.



The family are buried in *Old H51*

*In loving memory of Margaret Annie wife of Walter Whiteley who died 10th Feb 1919 aged 52 years also of Wilfred Wilkinson their eldest son who died at Glasgow, from wounds received in action 29th Sep. 1918 aged 29 years also the above Walter Whiteley who died 13th June 1939 aged 75 years.*



**Lance Corporal John Edward Wilson** of the King's Royal Rifle Corps was the only child of **Arthur Edward Wilson** and his wife **Isabella Davison**. For whatever reason his parents didn't live together and he was brought up in Settle by his mother and her aunt **Jane Batty** at the Old Naked Man Inn. Arthur Edward worked as a furniture salesman in Bradford.



John Edward's grandfather, **John Wilson** had been the headmaster of Settle National School and later unveiled the Memorial Tablet at Settle School. John

Edward followed suit and was an assistant schoolmaster at Settle National School and then at Edlington Boys' School in Doncaster. He was engaged to marry **Doris Hooton** of London.

John Edward died of wounds on the Western Front on 6 November 1916, age 22 and was remembered on his mother and grandmother's gravestone in Old D16

*In Loving Memory of Sarah Ann Davidson who died Dec. 16th 1897 aged 63 years also Isabella Wilson daughter of the above who died March 28th 1937 aged 66 years also John Edward Wilson dearly beloved son of the above killed in action Nov 6th 1916 aged 21 years. At rest.*



**Private Ernest Thorpe Wooff** of the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment and **Lance Corporal Robert John Wooff** of the Durham Light Infantry were two of the three sons of **Thomas Wooff**, a grocer and his wife and **Eva Hawkswell**. The brothers both worked at Hector Christie's mill before they enlisted.

Ernest was killed in action on the Western Front 5 July 1916, aged 22. He had previously been injured by gunfire but returned to the Front with the bullet still lodged in his shoulder.

Younger brother Robert John Wooff was initially posted to the West Yorkshire Regiment but was transferred to the Durham Light Infantry. He died almost exactly a year later, killed in action on the Western front on 17 June 1917, age 21. Their parents are buried in the unmarked grave **New GX8**.

