

John Telford, assurance superintendent

John Telford was the fourth of at least nine children of **Tom Telford** [ph1] and his wife **Hannah Gaddes** [ph2], born in a number of villages around Cumbria but ending up at Whitehaven. The eldest daughter **Eleanor Nixon Gaddes** was actually born to Sarah three years before their wedding. The fact that photos exist indicates there was some money in this family although at the time of each census Tom worked as a farm labourer, railway platelayer and coal miner. Sarah's father, **David Gaddes**, a farmer and blacksmith was remembered as being 'good for an anecdote and time on the fiddle'! [1]



ming; **David Gaddes**, farmer and blacksmith and good for an anecdote and tune on the fiddle; **John Hodgson**, the waggish bird stuffer;

As far as we have been able to find out most of John's siblings remained in working class occupations and most stayed in the area: **David Gaddes Telford** [ph3] was a porter at a drapery warehouse in Manchester with his wife and children.



George Newton Telford was a coal miner in Maryport, Cumbria before emigrating to British Columbia, Canada. **Tom (Jnr) Telford** began life as a sewing machine agent but later also worked at the Maryport Colliery, describing himself as a deputy at the time of the 1911 census, with his wife and children and an adopted son. Daughter **Sarah Gaddes Telford** [ph2] married a draper's commercial traveller, **John Atkinson** and had a large family. Youngest son **Joseph Telford** [ph4] began life as a draper's assistant but later worked as a bus inspector in Whitehaven with his wife and family.



Daughter **Dinah Telford** married **Patrick Carvill** in May 1901. Patrick, a sewing machine agent, who most likely worked with Dinah's brother Tom Telford, had been boarding with the Telfords at the time of the census a few weeks before the wedding. Dinah died in 1909 after the birth of a son and two daughters and then Patrick emigrated to Manitoba, Canada, stating on paperwork that he was going to live with Jenny Telford, intriguingly. Their son **John Joseph Carvill** and daughter **Nellie Carvill** were put into an orphanage, north of Bolton and daughter Hannah was adopted by 59 year old **Betsy Lord**. The daughters both married and stayed in the area. Son John Joseph Carvill remained single and lived with his uncle Joseph Telford, the bus inspector. It's surprising that the three children were not looked after by any of Dinah's siblings.

Son John took over as man of the house when his father died in 1902. Aged 30 he was an 'assistant superintendent of assurance'. Aged 38, in 1909 he married 31 year old Mary **Hannah Burns** and they managed to have a son and a daughter soon afterwards, despite the presence of Mary Hannah's widowed mum, Catherine who lived with them.

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Mary Hannah was one of two daughters of **John Burns**, a Cumbria innkeeper/coal agent and his wife **Catherine Ferguson** who was probably a cousin. John died in 1898, aged 62. At the time of the 1911 census John, Mary Hannah, son **John Alfred** and mother-in-law Catherine lived in Penrith with John still working as an assurance superintendent. By 1914 the family had moved to live in Craven Cottages in Settle, presumably for work reasons. Unfortunately, John died at the end of May 1914, followed by mother-in-law Catherine just a couple of weeks later. Catherine was in the workhouse when she died. Poor Mary Hannah had lost her husband and mum within two weeks and was left with a couple of toddlers to look after. They are buried together in the unmarked grave Old GX64.

Mary Hannah took the children back to Lancashire. At the time of the 1939 pre-war register Mary Hannah was living in Heysham by Morecambe with daughter **Catherine Evelyn** who had married **William Hamer Smith**, a decorator, and her daughter **Catherine Joan Smith**. William Hamer Smith was an illegitimate son so we can't find out much more about him until the 1921 census becomes available.

John and Mary Hannah's son, **John Alfred Telford** became a joiner, also in Heysham. He served in the navy and was placed in the far east throughout the war. Three of the ships he was serving on were sunk by torpedo three times but he survived and returned home, bringing back some very nice wooden ornaments from China and the Far East.

In 1932 John Alfred had married **Jessie Nadraja Blanche Harmsworth** and they had one child, **Donald Alfred Telford**. Jessie was the daughter of **Ernest Henry Harmsworth**, a most interesting chap. Ernest Henry and his wife **Alice Louise Stansfield** were both photographers' children from Bradford. Ernest Henry continued to work as a photographer's agent until becoming the operator of the Albert Theatre at Brighouse. When he retired for a promotion to the Theatre de Luxe at nearby Halifax he was presented with a gold mounted umbrella and a silver cigarette case [2]. Very nice.

However, in 1918 a warrant was put out for Ernest's arrest for stealing £32 6s 9d. He was now in Barrow-in-Furness. He was described as 5ft 8 inches tall with dark brown hair (turning grey) hazel eyes, dark brown moustache and slim build. He was *'a heavy cigarette smoker and his appearance indicates he is fond of drink; generally dresses in blue suit and trilby hat'*. He was a cinema theatre manager, also expert photographer and cinematographer. This was his first offence [3].

- **Ernest Henry Harmsworth** (43), late cashier at His Majesty's Theatre, Barrow, pleaded guilty to conversion to his own use of £32 belonging to Mrs. Routledge, lessee of the theatre, and to embezzlement by falsification of bank paying-in slips, the total involved being £150. When the bank called for the pass book for audit accused disappeared, and was arrested at Morecambe.—He has ten children, and taking into account his previous good character, he was sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

PROMOTION AND PRESENTATION.

At the close of his last show at the Albert Theatre, Brighouse, Mr. **Ernest H. Harmsworth**, who had occupied the post of operator for two years, was presented by the staff with a gold-mounted umbrella and a silver cigarette case. The presentation was made by Mr. Martin Manley, junr., the manager, and a few appropriate remarks were added by Mr. H. V. Richardson, the musical director. Mr. **Harmsworth**, who made a suitable res-

LANCASHIRE.

41.—**Barrow-in-Furness (Borough).**—For stealing £32 6s. 9d., the money of his employer, and converting it to his own use. — **ERNEST HENRY HARMSWORTH**, C.R.O. No. M/2886 (no pre. con. traced), age 40, ht. 5ft. 8in., h. dk. brown (turning grey), e. hazel, dk. brown moustache, slim build, is a heavy cigarette smoker and his appearance indicates that he is fond of drink; generally dresses in blue suit and trilby hat. A cinema theatre manager, also expert photographer and cinematographer.

Warrant issued.

Information to the Chief Constable, Barrow-in-Furness.

BARROW THEATRE MANAGER'S FRAUD.—At Lancaster Assizes on Friday **Ernest Henry Harmsworth**, 43, theatrical manager, pleaded guilty to embezzlement and fraudulent conversion of money at Barrow. He was the manager of His Majesty's Theatre at Barrow, and paid less money into the bank than paying-in slips showed. The total defalcations were said to be £153. The sentence was three months' imprisonment in the second division.

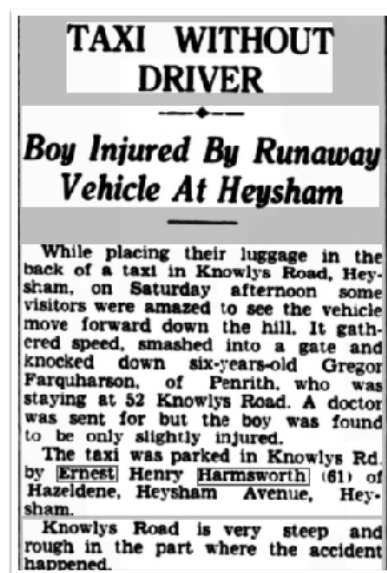
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Articles explained that there were two offences in February and June of 1918, of falsifying books and fraudulent conversion of money [4,5]. One article explained he had ten children to look after

Embezzlement, at Barrow, on the 22nd of Feb. 1918, and also falsifying books.
Fraudulent conversion of money, at Barrow, on the 19th June, 1918.

and, taking into account his previous good character, was sentenced to three months' imprisonment.

Ernest Henry and his wife moved to Heysham, close to their daughter Jessie (Telford). Ernest Henry worked as a taxi driver. In 1939 there was an unfortunate accident when Ernest Henry left the handbrake of his taxi off on a hill while customers were putting their luggage in the boot [6].



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.

Life stories can be found on 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'.

Thanks to descendant Liz Butler with her help with this account. The lives 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 – West Cumberland Times, 2 – Kinematograph Weekly, 3 – Police Gazette, 4 – Lancashire evening post, 5 – Wigton Advertiser, 6 – Morecambe Guardian

ph1 – photo credited to credited to family descendants via Ancestry.co.uk, username alisonle1967, ph2 – username sean atkinson, ph3 – username James_Saunderson, ph4 – username annelford112