

Rev Walter Edward Linney, the 5th vicar

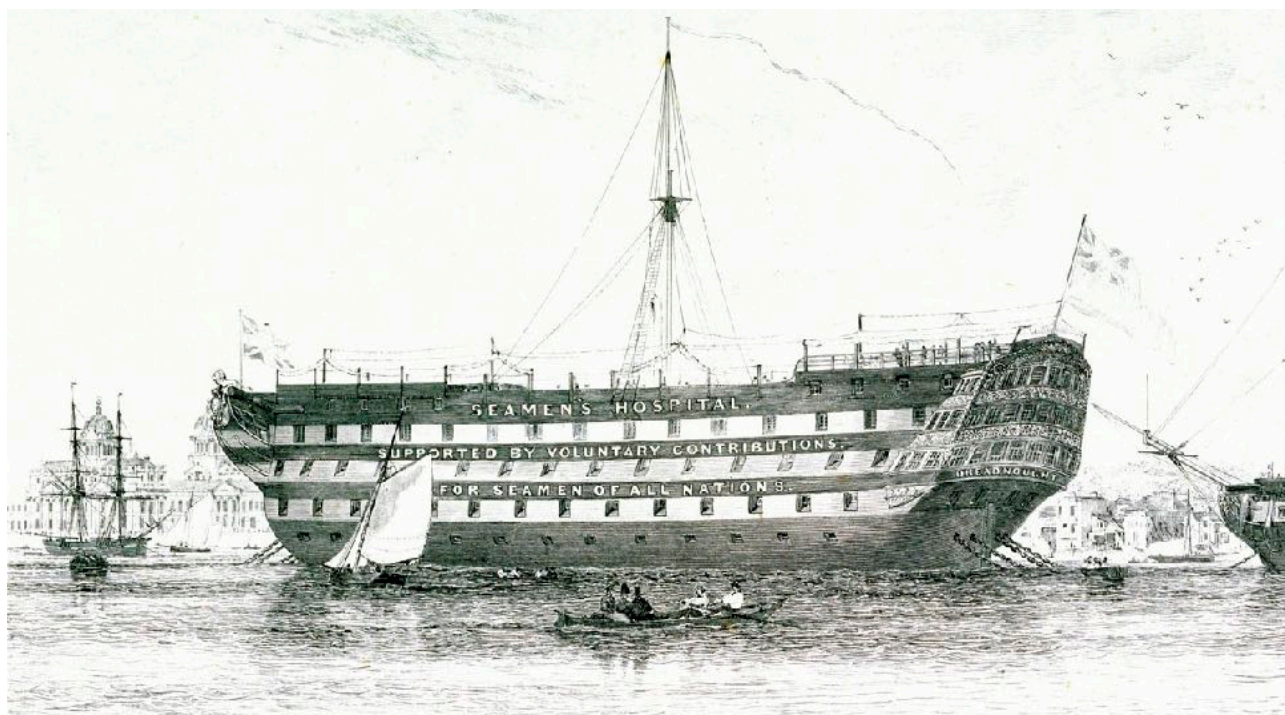
Oh, how things changed through the 19th century. The first three vicars of Holy Ascension Church were typical in being some of the richest members of society, coming to the church from privileged backgrounds and maintaining their wealth through their tenure. Our 5th vicar came from decidedly humble roots and had a middle class living. The wealth of the Church of England followed a similar pattern. With the rise of nonconformism providing free worship, the expensive pew rents and cultural differences failed to attract the working classes as well as some of the respectable middle classes and so attendance and income fell. Charles Dickens and others illustrated this on numerous occasions. This was despite a variety of reforms within the church to tighten up their own procedures and focus on urban parishes.

Walter Edward Linney was born in 1856 in Nottingham, the youngest child of **Thomas Linney**, a shoemaker and his first wife **Catherine Baldock**. Walter will have been old enough to remember two of his four siblings dying in childhood. His mother Catherine died when Walter was eight. Thomas went on to have two further wives, **Elizabeth (Thorn) Bristow**, another shoemaker's widow with whom he had another son, **Thomas Henry Linney** and then another widow **Sarah (Briggs) Nelson**. Thomas Linney and family lived most of their lives in Dryden Street, north of the city centre. Being so conveniently placed the street has now been rebuilt to house student flats, of course! Thomas died after a short but painful illness, aged 77 in 1896 [7].

LINNEY.—On the 15th inst., at his residence, 26, Dryden-street, after a short but painful illness, **Thomas Linney**, aged 77 years. Much respected. No cards and no flowers, by special request.

Walter's surviving brother, **John**

Linney, was an engineer in Nottingham as was **Slater Martin**, his sister **Mary Ann's Linney's** husband. By the age of 15, Walter's half-brother Thomas Henry Linney was at an Industrial School in Anglesey being trained for a maritime life. Unfortunately, at the age of 23 he had two stays in Dreadnought Seamen's Hospital in Greenwich for the treatment of venereal disease. Many others in the hospital were also being treated for this and several others for alcoholism and a multitude of infectious diseases. The hospital had originally been located on a hulk ship, HMS Dreadnought, as



engraved by Edward William Cooke [ph1], but this was abandoned in 1872 and moved to Greenwich. Thomas Henry had been on the Star of Australia, sailing from Belfast. Records for him stop after this — it may have been fatal. It seems he had fun in every port. The rest of the family probably didn't talk about this, even if they knew of it.

Walter was a pupil teacher by the age of 15 and found a teaching post in Matlock where he married schoolteacher **Susannah** (occasionally Susanna) **Mary Doughty**, a Nottingham stonemason's daughter on 1st May 1879. For some reason it was 20 years before Susannah gave birth to their only daughter Kathleen. 44 is an old age to give birth to a first child and this raises a few questions for curious genealogists.

In October 1882 Walter 'schoolmaster, claimed as a Conservative for occupation of the school-house at Matlock Town, in which he resided. With the aid of a document specially prepared for the purpose by the rector and churchwardens he managed to secure his vote' [1].

vatives. After considerable legal argument, and when the will creating the rent-charge had been produced, the claims were allowed.—Mr. **Walter Edward Linney**, schoolmaster, claimed as a Conservative for occupation of the school-house at Matlock Town, in which he resided. With the aid of a document specially prepared for the purpose by the rector and churchwardens, he managed to secure his vote.—Mr. Arthur Statham.

For some reason during the 1880s Walter decided on a career change. In March 1887, Walter Edward Linney, BA, was ordained into the Ripon Diocese. His first post was as Curate at St Cuthbert's, Pateley Bridge where he became fully involved in the community. There are several records of him and Susannah singing in concerts. He was a member of the cricket club, secretary of the St Cuthbert's Men's Society, treasurer of the Beverley Habitation of the Primrose League — the Conservative Association, with almost 500 members in 1894, and secretary to the storm relief committee of 1895 which raised and distributed relief for quarrymen who had been kept out of work for 5 or 6 weeks.

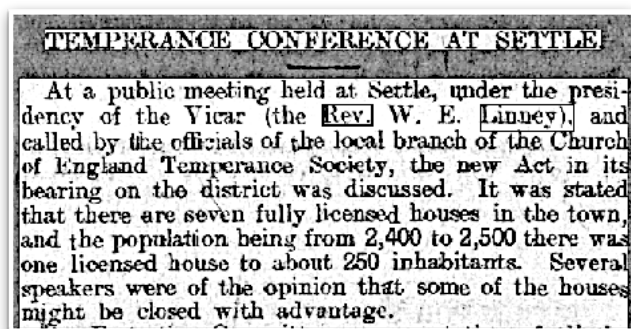
In 1896 papers report that Walter was appointed to serve at St Luke's church in Bradford but that didn't transpire for some reason. Instead, in 1897 he moved to St Mary's church in Eastwood, Keighley. Finally, in July 1902 he accepted the living of Settle following the departure of **Richard Craven Garnett** to Worcestershire. Mr and Mrs Linney 'and their little daughter of four years old' were presented with a handsome chiming clock in rosewood and a massive set of silver communion vessels, an elegant gold bracelet set with turquoise stones and a gold pendant and chain [2]. The article was published in Pateley Bridge press indicating how fondly he was still remembered after five years away.

PRESENTATION TO THE REV. W. E. LINNEY.

The Rev. W. E. Linney, formerly of Pateley Bridge, Mrs. Linney, and their little daughter of four years old, have been the recipients of a number of gifts from the congregations and friends of the Eastwood churches, on the occasion of their leaving the parish. Mr. Linney was presented with a handsome chiming clock in rosewood and a massive set of silver pocket Communion vessels; Mrs. Linney with an elegant gold bracelet set with turquoise stones, and Miss Linney with a gold pendant cross and chain. The gifts were suitably inscribed and accompanied by a parchment scroll containing the names of the subscribers. The presentations

Walter and the family arrived in Settle in November 1902 only to find the church burdened with debt. Walter quickly took the matter in hand and within 6 months over £300 had been raised and the liability wiped out. As previously, Walter threw himself into community life. In 1904 Walter

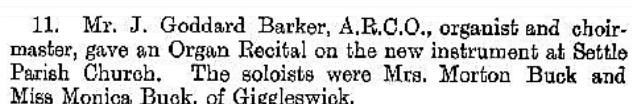
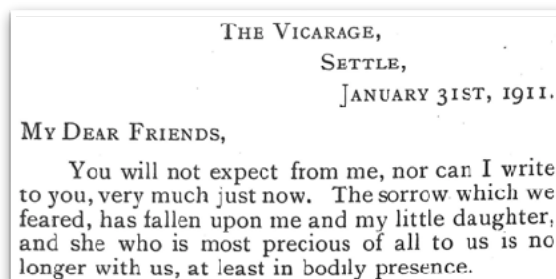
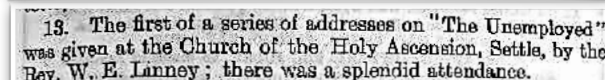
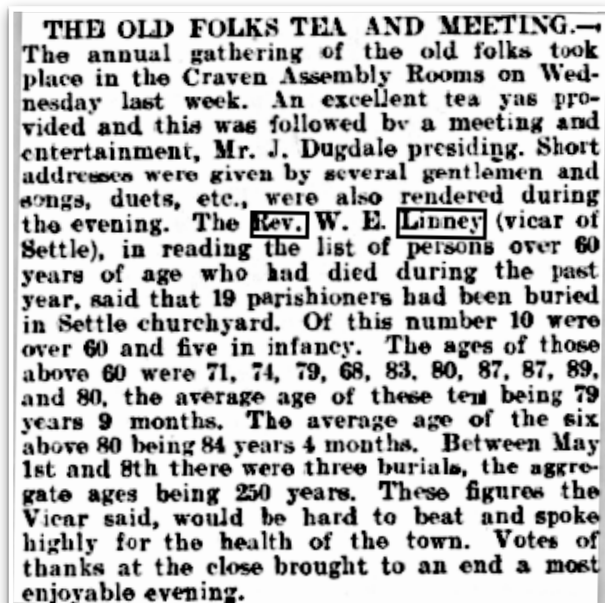
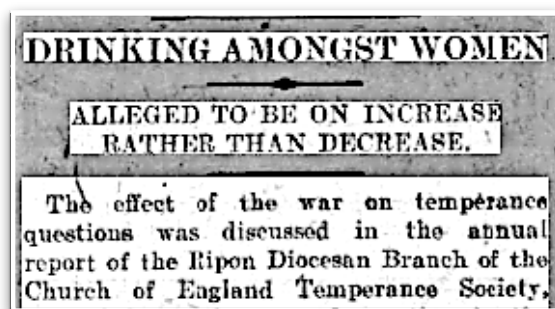
became the president of the 'Temperance Conference at Settle' [3]. During the conference it was stated that Settle had seven licensed houses, equivalent to one per 250 residents, which was felt to be too many and would be reported to the magistrates. By 1915 Walter was also on the executive committee for the Ripon branch of CofE Temperance Society, concerned about the rise of drinking amongst women as a result of the war [3].



In 1904 Walter attended an Old Folks Tea and Meeting in which he listed recent burials. He said there were very few infant burials and many people living over the age of 60, figures which would be *'hard to beat and spoke highly for the health of the town'*[4]. He cited three burials in the first week of May, of which the aggregate ages were 250 years! They were the burials of **Ellen (Johnson) Turner** aged 83, a labourer's wife, **Mary Thomson**, aged 87, a spinster daughter of a preacher at the Zion Chapel and **Mary (Tomlinson) Taylor**, aged 87, a cobbler's wife, actually totalling 257. He also gave a series of lectures on 'The Unemployed' [LSA]. There was a *'splendid attendance'* at the first one.

In 1908 Walter had the satisfaction of seeing the church declared free and open to all following the elimination of pew rents, a scheme devised by **Rev William Frederick Pierson** over 50 years previously! Sadly, Susannah became ill in 1910 and eventually died in January 1911. Their daughter **Kathleen Mary Linney** was just 12. Walter wrote in the Parish Magazine expressing his thanks to the community and celebrating her devoted and self sacrificing nature [ph2]. A parishioner also wrote about Susannah, *'Truly — sometimes — when the wings are spread and we see them no more, we begin to realise that we may have "entertained angels unawares."*

Walter continued to live at the Vicarage on Station Road with his daughter, a housekeeper, widow **Mary Emily (Charlton) Luckman**, and another servant. Generally, things were going well. Around this time there were 289 regular communicants. On 24 April 1913, being a talented musician, Walter was probably very glad to secure the new organ, built by JJ Binns of Leeds and



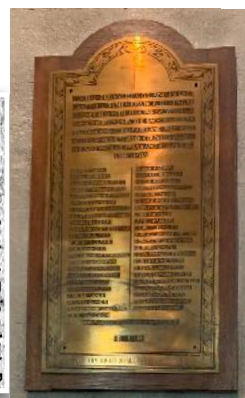
would be very glad and probably quite surprised that it is still going strong to this day. The church organist, **John Goddard Barker** gave an organ recital on it with relatives of **Dr Charles William Buck** performing as soloists [LSA]. John Goddard Barker left the services of the church very soon afterwards, for some reason. Six months later Walter[ph2] oversaw the burial arrangements for the local landowner **Charles Alured Swale**, the first vicar's grandson, who died after taking his own life in tragic circumstances having received much criticism for a recent land purchase. Rev Linney described 'he was subject at times to heavy and deep depression. He fought against it bravely, but when he believed his honour was called into question ... his too sensitive and highly strung temperament could not endure the strain and he longed to be at rest ... Shall we ever learn the awful power of the tongue to wound, and that it can be an unruly evil, full of deadly poison? Wise words indeed and still relevant today.



In July 1916, Walter was asked by the Bishop of Ripon to accept the position of Rural Dean of North Craven, which he accepted alongside his work at Holy Ascension. After the war Walter was proud to organise the church memorial to those lost. It was made of bronze relief, measured 4ft x 2ft and was placed on the West wall of the church [CH]. It was unveiled by **Colonel Birkbeck**

from Anley. The service also celebrated the production of the book 'Craven's part in the Great War' which commemorated the lives of those killed and is a valuable research resource to this day.

A SETTLE MEMORIAL.
Last night the memorial tablet erected in the Church of the Holy Ascension, Settle, in memory of those connected with the parish who fell in the war, was unveiled and dedicated. The tablet is of hand-carved bronze in relief, is of rich design, and measures 4ft. by 2ft. It is erected on the western wall of the church. It contains the names of 47 men who fell. A large congregation attended an impressive service, conducted by the Bishop of Bradford (Dr. Perowne) and the Vicar, the Rev. W. E. Linney. Prior to the



On 14 November 1917 in Settle

Walter conducted the private adult baptism of his brother **John Linney**, an engineer, aged 65. John died just weeks later on 16 December, back in Nottingham.

In 1920, aged 64, Walter married 59 year old Mary Emily Luckman who had worked as his housekeeper for at least ten years. Mary Emily had a fascinating story to tell. She was the eldest of ten children of **Robert Charlton** and his wife **Maria Shepherd** of Kirkham, near Preston. Robert was a respectable figure in the town and was the second master at Kirkham Grammar School for 38 years. He died in his sleep [5], next to his wife in 1900, aged 69 and widow Maria died 20 years to the day later, aged 81.

SUDDEN DEATH OF A KIRKHAM RESIDENT.—Mr. **Robert Charlton**, a well-known resident of Kirkham and neighbourhood, was found dead in bed this morning. He retired in his usual health, and seemed to be sleeping when left by his wife when arising this morning. Shortly after, the family were unable to arouse him, and on Dr. W. W. Shaw being called in, he pronounced life extinct, the cause of death being apoplexy. Deceased was formerly second master of **Kirkham Grammar School** for a great number of years, and was held in high esteem by all he came in contact with. He leaves a widow and grown-up family.

Mary Emily disappeared from existing records

after her appearance in the 1871 census aged ten. However, some time in the following years she met **Cecil Frederick Grant Luckman**, the son of **William Luckman**, a clergyman and schoolmaster from Bath. Cecil also became a clergyman and served in Martock, Somerset, and Tettenhall, Staffordshire before being posted to South America. He served in Argentina and then Buenos Aires

Settle Graveyard Project

and finally worked as the British Consular Chaplain in Bahia, Brazil. Whilst in Argentina Mary Emily and Cecil had twins, a son and a daughter. The family were found on board the ship Magdalena sailing from Uruguay back to Southampton in April 1895, but Cecil died back in Bahia a year later, aged 37. Their son, **Arthur Cecil Grant Luckman**, had a family and a career as a bank teller in Canada. On 20 June 1920, their daughter, **Kathleen Amy Luckman**, married a Lancashire farmer **Robert Allan Poole**. Just weeks later, on 19th July Kathleen Amy was a witness at her mother's marriage to Walter Edward Linney.

Nearly a year after his wedding Walter died of heart trouble, aged 65, having served in Settle for over 19 years and being Rural Dean for Craven for five. His death was recorded in the Overdale School magazine — Walter was due to take a service for them. Walter and Susanna's daughter Kathleen Mary had attended Overdale School [ph2]. His glowing obituaries emphasised his unflinching devotion to duty, his kindness of heart and ready sympathy. As well as his successes with the pew rents, financial and business management and the war memorial, Walter was also credited with the '*beautifying of the church*'.

Sunday, February 20th. Rev. D. E. James, of Langcliffe, took the service owing to the sudden illness of the vicar, Rev. W. E. Linney. At dinner time we heard the sad news that he had passed quietly away in his sleep. For 20 years, notwithstanding almost constant poor health, he had toiled diligently for the parish. He was always a good friend to Overdale, and took a keen interest in all our doings. Our sympathies are with Mary Linney who was for nine years an Overdale girl.

VICAR OF SETTLE DIES SUDDENLY.

The Rev. Walter Edward Linney, vicar of Settle, and Rural Dean of Craven, died suddenly yesterday, shortly after mid-day. Mr. Linney had not enjoyed robust health for a long time. Heart trouble, from which he had been a sufferer, was the cause of death. Mr. Linney went to Settle in December, 1902, formerly being vicar of St. Mary's, Keighley. He was in his 65th year, and leaves a widow and one daughter.

In the death of the late Vicar, The Rev. W. E. Linney, the Parish of Settle has lost the services of an esteemed and highly respected Minister, and many of the Parishioners a faithful friend. For upwards of 18 years, in spite of the serious handicap of impaired health, the late Vicar has ably and efficiently performed the duties attached to such a position in Settle. By his unflinching devotion to duty, his kindness

Walter's gravestone certainly didn't reflect his humble background. It is one of two in a Celtic style, the other being that of **Dr James Walker Edgar** and his wife, located close by. For all its elaborate design, it's very hard to decipher. However, the inscription includes the description of Walter as '*Vicar of Settle*', which he was for nearly 20 years:

In loving memory of Susanna Mary Linney born Aug 9th 1853 died Jan 23 1911, Rest in Peace. And of Walter Edward Linney died 20 Feb 1921 aged 65 years. Vicar of Settle 1902 - 1921, Old F54



Mary Emily died in 1950 in Garstang Lancashire where she lived with her daughter Kathleen Amy and family.

Meanwhile Walter and Susannah's daughter Kathleen Mary Linney married **Alan Dunlop Foster**, the son of **Dunlop Foster** and his wife **Isabella Skelton** whose roots were in Scotland serving in the military and banking. Alan was employed by the Anglo-Persian Oil Company based in Iran [6].

Mrs Foster belonged to an old Annan family, her father being the late Mr James Scott Skelton, who was agent of the Commercial Bank of Scotland, Annan, and her brother was the late Mr James Skelton, Town-Clerk, Annan. She is survived by one son, Mr Alan Dunlop Foster, who holds an appointment with the Anglo-Persian Oil Company.

Walter appears in several photos, often related to Temperance causes and at the school in Upper Settle [ph2].

DEATH OF ANNAN WOMAN

The death occurred yesterday of Mrs Dunlop Foster of Heathfield, Annan. Mrs Foster for many years administered the funds of the Annan Ladies' Society, which was founded in 1836 by her relative, Mrs Scott of Greenbank, Annan, and which has continuously assisted deserving poor in the town and district with supplies of coal during the winter months. Both during the Boer War and the late war she did much useful work for the Soldiers and Sailors Families' Association, and she was for a time on the County Pensions Committee.





This account has been compiled by Sarah Lister as part of the Settle Graveyard Project which has recorded gravestone inscriptions, updated church records and researched the lives of those buried. It has been written in good faith with no offence intended. If I have inadvertently included errors or breached any copyright I apologise and would welcome corrections.

The life stories of people with italicised names have been researched as part of the graveyard project and can be found on [dalescommunityarchives.org.uk/settle graveyard project](http://dalescommunityarchives.org.uk/settle-graveyard-project). The 'Old Settle' family tree on ancestry.co.uk includes the families buried in the graveyard. The project is ongoing and welcomes queries and information on settleresearch@gmail.com. Latest news and events are on the Facebook page 'Settle Graveyard Project'.

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ph1 – credited to Wikipedia, public domain, Artist & engraver: Edward William Cooke, ph2 – with thanks to Mike Howarth

CH - with the kind permission of the Craven Herald and Pioneer, thanks to Mike Howarth

LSA - Lambert's Settle Almanac, SC – Settle Chronicle, WLP – the diaries of William Lodge Paley with the kind permission of the North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust