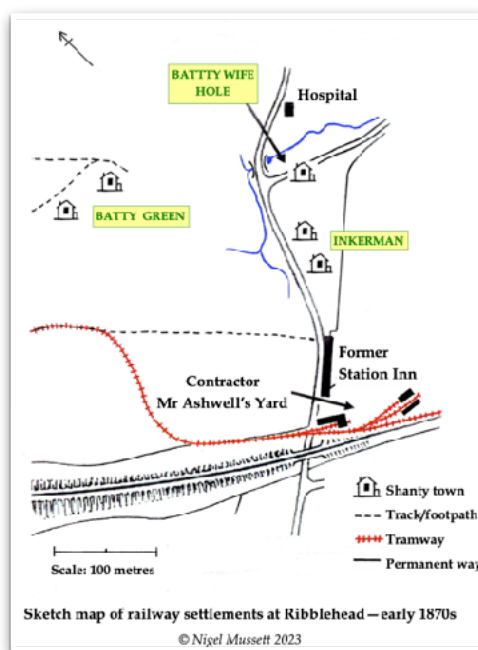


Ribblehead Tales . . . The Bookkeeper and the Surgeon

During the building of the Settle to Carlisle Railway the boggy Ribblehead site was home to hundreds of workers at any one time and thousands over the construction years. Inkerman was a collection of huts and terraced houses at the south end of Batty Green. This was the heart of the community housing clerks, a surgeon, bookkeepers, timekeepers, inns and numerous shops including grocers, butchers and hairdressers. Several of our most respected residents lived here in 1871 and many stayed at Ribblehead for the duration of the construction, if they survived. They included **Job Hirst** and **Francis Moody**, subcontractors, **James Tiplady**, the railway missionary, **George Capstick**, a bookkeeper, **Frederick Leveson**, a surgeon, **Robert Holland** running the Tommy Shop and three Innkeepers. Conditions here were thought to be better than on the moor[1].



George Capstick, bookkeeper

In 1871 census **George Capstick**, from Kirkby Lonsdale lived at Inkerman with his wife **Hannah Tebay** [ph1] from Kendal, four sons and a boarder. Their neighbours were subcontractor **Francis Moody** and Missionary **James Tiplady**. George and Hannah came from farming families and married in 1858. They moved straight to Bootle on the coast of South Lancashire (not Liverpool) where George was the stationmaster on the Furness Railway. Over the next ten years they had four sons and a daughter living in Bootle, Workington, Bowness and then Ribblehead.



Youngest son **Joseph Capstick**, born in Bowness, was buried at Ribblehead on 1 August 1871 aged two years and three months. Six months later, on 5 March 1872, George died of phthisis (tuberculosis), and so it's possible little Joseph had that too. By the time of his death George, aged 38, worked as a telegraph clerk. **Richard Foster**, the Ingleton letter carrier and shoemaker was present at his death. After George's death the family moved away.

George Capstick	Head	Mar	36	Bookkeeper	Northumberland, Kirkby Lonsdale
Hannah Tebay	Wife	Mar	33		Yorkshire, Boston
Mary J.	Daughter		12		Yorkshire, Kendal
Miles	Son		9	Schooler	Northumberland, Bootle
Thomas J.	Son		7		Yorkshire, Workington
George	Son		5		Northumberland, Bowness
Joseph	Son		2		Yorkshire, Bowness
Frederick M. Leveson	Boarder	Unm	28	Surgeon	Yorkshire, London
Francis Moody	Head	Mar	46	Overlooker on Ribbleside	Northumberland, Blyth

Frederick MacFarlane Leveson, surgeon

George Capstick's boarder was **Frederick MacFarlane Leveson**, a surgeon born in Jamaica who made a point of saying 'Surgeon University London' on the census return. He was one of six sons, the eldest born in 1826, of **Henry Leveson** from London and **Cecelia Frances Hopkins**, nearly 20 years Henry's junior. Cecelia was just 18 when the first son was born. Cecelia was born in Spanish Town, Jamaica and, aged 19, filled in the first of several returns to confirm she owned slaves. To be registered in a woman's name it's likely Cecilia inherited the slaves from her father. By 1829 she had 14 slaves. There were nine female slaves, aged between seven and 45 and five males from a new born to age 20. Eight of them were children of the female slaves. This remarkable document also listed who the slaves were purchased from and their skin colour. Most were 'negro' but servant 23 year old **Maria Dalhouse** was 'mullato' indicating one of her parents was white. The baby, **Andrew**, was listed as Maria's son and had a skin colour of 'quadroon' indicating that his father was also a white man. In those days the father was most likely to have been a slave owner. Interestingly, Cecilia was herself of skin colour 'quadroon' which means that a grandparent was black, and so probably a slave. Henry and Cecilia eventually married on 27 March 1841 in Kingston, Jamaica when Frederick was just one. Son Hubert was born two years later.

This dark part of history has rarely been encountered in our project. Henry Leveson's family also had a dark history. Henry was one of nine children of **Lyon Levy** and his wife **Jessica Benjamin** who married when they were teenagers. Lyon, 'a Jew', became one of the most extensive dealers of precious stones in England, trading in diamonds, pearls, rubies, topazes and emeralds based in Haydon Square just north of Tower Bridge. In 1803 he was praised as an excellent singer — 'the best private singer in the country. There is much flexibility and rotundity in his voice; his power is astonishing' [5]. Lyon sang in the style of **Charles Incledon**, a very famous and versatile tenor of that era with a quite extraordinary range.

style. A Gentleman, by the name of Mr. Lyon Levy, sang astonishingly fine: the amateurs were decidedly of opinion that he is the best private singer in this country. There is much flexibility and rotundity in his voice; his power is astonishing. He sings much in the style of Incledon, but more pure and easy.

Despite his apparent success, on 18 January 1810 at 12 o'clock 50 year old Lyon paid for admission to climb to the top of The Monument (to the Great Fire of London) in Fish Street, designed by **Sir Christopher Wren**. After walking around the railings at the top a few times he threw himself off the top, falling 175 feet. He narrowly avoided pedestrians at the bottom, being deflected by the lower griffins of the monument. He landed on his head and newspapers reported all the gory details of his appearance. A verdict of 'insanity' was given. Most newspapers featured his death in an article lamenting 'the third such instance in the last 60 years', calling for higher rails to be built or to



Third, 1810, Jan. 18, Lyon Levy, a Jew, fell from the gallery, on the East side; he struck the pedestal, but cleared the rails, and fell one yard outside, near to the S. E. corner. The fall from the top of the gallery inclosure to the ground, is about 175 feet.

Settle Graveyard Project

enclose the top altogether [6]. It was eventually caged in, after a further four suicides, in 1842. Many years later, in 1887, Thomas Ingoldsby wrote the *'Misadventures at Margate: a legend of Jarvis' Jetty'*, a humorous story (in a Victorian sort of way) about the adventures of a 19th century London gentleman visiting Margate and naively befriending a poor *'vulgar boy'*. It was subtitled *'A seedy tale of historical Margate told in poetic form.'* It included the verse, *'If there's a soul will give me food, or find me in employ, By day or night, then blow me tight! (he was a vulgar boy) And now I'm here, from this here pier it is my fixed intent To jump, as Mister Levi did from off the Monument!'* [ph2] Thomas Ingoldsby was the *nom de plume* of **Richard Barham**, a Kentish clergyman.



Lyon left his wife, pregnant and with eight other children. There was speculation about commercial failure and, indeed, his widow auctioned off many of his treasures two months later. In 1820 the family home was sold by auction, perhaps upon the death of Lyon's widow, advertised as *'A Desirable Leasehold Estate, comprising a convenient and respectable house, very light and airy, situate No. 5, the centre of Haydon-square; the house contains seven good bedchambers, a store-room, drawing-room of good dimensions with iron balconies; on the ground-floor, a dining parlour, breakfast-room, and counting-house, paved yard; with water-closet, and knife-house [for ritual slaughter?!], front area with arched vaults, spacious wine-cellar, &c'*. Lyon's mother had been confined to a *'private madhouse'* for many years so mental health difficulties could have been inherited. After Lyon's death the family anglicised their surname to Levison and then Leveson, perhaps to distance themselves from Jewish ancestry and the shame of the suicide. After the suicide, two of Lyon and Jessica's daughters married prominent Jamaican plantation owners and, after a possible appearance at a bankruptcy court in London, Henry followed them to Jamaica.

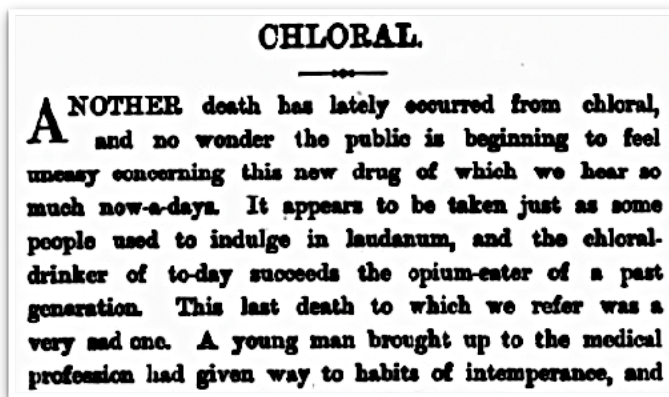
So, what about our surgeon, Frederick? When the slave trade was abolished the family returned England and, the time of the 1861 census, were living in Leamington Spa with Frederick described as a *'medical student'*. One brother had stayed in the West Indies, two were *'West Indies mercantile traders'* and two were clergymen. In May 1861 Frederick, aged 21, married **Jane Frost**, the daughter of John Frost, an apothecary/surgeon who he could have been working for. The marriage is thought to have been without the family's knowledge [ph3].



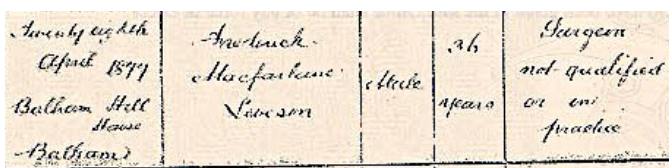
Alarm bells began to ring about Frederick when Henry died in 1869, aged 83, and he mentioned in his will, *"I do not herein mention my son Frederick by name but leave him to be dealt with in relation to all such properties effects and shares as shall be deemed advisable by my sons Wilfred, Charles and Edmund whom I hereby appoint as my Executors and trustees"*. Oh dear. The reasons for this will become apparent.

When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.
May 20 th 1861	Frederick M ^r Hartman Leveson	full age	Bachelor	Medical Student
	Jane Frost	full age	Spinster	

Unfortunately, Frederick and Jane's marriage didn't work. Frederick described himself as single at the time of the 1871 census at Ribblehead while Jane worked as a servant for a lace manufacturer in Nottingham, also describing herself as 'unmarried'. The intemperate lifestyle at Ribblehead did not help Frederick. In 1877 Frederick, 'a gentleman very respectably connected' approached **Dr Holthouse** who ran a dipsomania establishment recently opened in Hanover Square, London. There was an increasing demand for treatments generated from men who had become alcoholics after serving in the Crimean Wars. Frederick was 'suffering from intemperance which he could not control at home and wished to place himself in proper care.'^[4] He explained he had been 'given to intemperance since the age of 18' — since 1858. Dr Holthouse prescribed 50 grains of chloral, a sedative, every night, with instructions to his assistants to increase the dose if there was no effect. On the day he died, 28 April 1877, Frederick complained that the dose was much stronger than before and made him feel sick. The two assistants described how Frederick persuaded them to increase the dose and reduce the timings in between 'because he was a doctor himself.' The coroner's verdict was 'accidental through the administration of a sedative medicine in water incautiously, but not recklessly or intentionally given to cause death'. Chloral had recently been introduced as a sedative for use with alcoholism but was an even more addictive substitute. As a result of Frederick's death and several others, 'no wonder the public feel uneasy about this new drug. The chloral drinker of today succeeds the opium-eater of the past generation. On Dr Holthouse's showing, chloral is far too dangerous a medicament to be left in the hands of an attendant'^[3]. Frederick died in May 1877, aged 37 and Dr Holthouse was free to continue his experimental regime. Before working with chloral Dr Holthouse was known for trying new techniques in amputation, also with a high mortality rate.



It seems Frederick may not have completed formal medical studies as his death certificate stated of his occupation, 'Surgeon, not qualified or in practice.'^[ph3]. Somehow, that's not surprising. Frederick was buried with his father in Putney with a stone, inscription now illegible. Widow Jane died in Nottingham in 1879, aged 40.



After Henry's death **widow** Cecilia lived in Southampton, Gloucestershire and Hertfordshire near some of her sons. It would be an interesting time to be a woman of colour in the South of England. Cecilia died in 1899, aged 91 and was buried in Berkhamstead graveyard.

In loving memory of our dear mother, Cecilia Frances Leveson, born Oct 12 1807, died June 16 1899



This is an unusual and cautionary tale that the wealthy and educated can be no less likely to be affected by the perils of alcohol and mental health difficulties.



Settle Graveyard Project

Away from Ribbleshead, it seems that Frederick's brother, **Charles Augustus Leveson** and his family had enormous difficulty keeping out of the newspaper headlines as well. The family were probably regarded as equally scandalous by some sections of society, however, they also had some incredible achievements.

Charles Augustus Leveson obtained a degree from Durham University in 1859 and was ordained the following year. To make ends meet he got a post tutoring two 'rather dense' sons of James Ashton, an extremely wealthy Cheshire magistrate and cotton manufacturer. On 15 July 1864, aged 30, he married **Eliza Bayley Ashton** [ph3], James's daughter. The wedding was on Eliza's 21st birthday and was the result of an elopement. James was outraged! His will included, *'Whereas my eldest daughter Eliza has wrongly married not only without my consent but also in direct opposition to my wishes and under circumstances which demand a substantial expression and proof of my disapprobation. Now in consequence thereof I hereby revoke the legacy of twenty seven thousand pounds and all other benefits . . . in favour of my said daughter and her child, children and issue respectively. I direct that my said will shall be construed and shall operate as if my said daughter Eliza were now actually dead under age and without ever having been married. And I do hereby give and bequeath unto my said daughter Eliza an annuity of four hundred pounds free from all deductions whatsoever including income tax for the term of her natural life to be payable and paid by equal quarterly payments in each year.'*



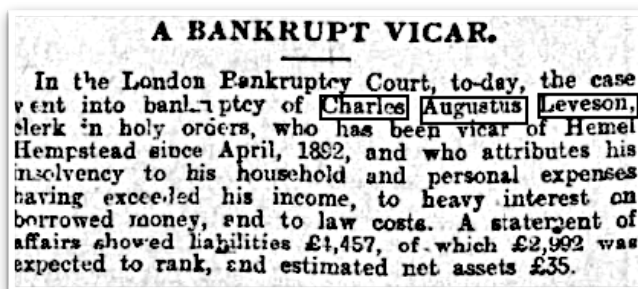
Eliza turned to her favourite half-brother, **Philip James Ashton**, who had now received a massive inheritance, begging him to assist her husband to find a living. Accordingly, an advowson was purchased for the incredible sum of £10,000 for the Vicarship of St. George's, Campden Hill, Kensington, a wealthy parish and Charles and Eliza's combined income was now a very generous £2,000 pa. Charles Augustus was unprepared and unsuited for such a prestigious role and social position. However, people would come great distances to hear his sermons! He once confided to his daughter *"It's all tosh - but it's my living!"* The family, with their five children, lived lavishly — they had no concept of how to handle the shower of money that now rained upon them. Charles, together with his brother Wilfred, who was then a curate in Liverpool, were persuaded to invest in a shady property deal which inevitably collapsed leaving Charles owing some £12,000 which, unless settled, would ensure his bankruptcy.

At around the same time the lifeline half-brother Philip James Ashton died, aged 28, on board his yacht, *The Dauntless*, off the coast at Folkestone. Philip 'a man of not very refined habits' had no heirs and his widow 'of a much lower social standing' didn't seem to count! As Eliza had been cut out of her father's will Philip had said he would leave the majority of the estate to his half-sister and her children. However, after hearing of the dodgy investment Philip changed his mind to give the majority of his £160,000 estate to his favourite aunt and £20,000 to hospital charities. The Leveson took this to case to court, alleging that Philip was of unsound mind, but to no avail.

His half sister,
Mrs. Leveson, had been in a great measure disinherited
by her father when she had married against his consent.

EXTRAORDINARY WILL CASE.
IMPORTANT BEQUESTS TO LOCAL
CHARITIES.

Charles and Eliza had to make do and left the parish in disgrace. They traded in Charles' living to one in Hemel Hempstead. They hadn't learned the appropriate lessons and so still had an expensive lifestyle, with servants. Inevitably their luck ran out in 1903 when Charles was again taken to the bankruptcy court with debts of £4457 and was forced into a brief and frugal retirement [8]. Charles died on Boxing Day 1908, aged 74. Eliza died in 1926, aged 83.



Two of their children, **Constance Elizabeth Frances** and **Wilfred Cecil** married, rather scandalously, siblings of the amazing Plunkett family who had successful careers on stage. Some sections of society looked down on performers but they added colour to this family!

Patriarch **Henry Plunkett Grattan** (stage name), born in Dublin in 1809, was an actor, journalist and dramatist with a career of over 60 years. (In Dublin the genuine **Henry Grattan** was a talented Irish Politician campaigning for Irish independence from Britain.) Henry Plunkett lived in Memphis, USA for 23 years, building a theatre, owning/editing a newspaper and producing numerous plays. Then, back in Surrey he continued and was one of the original contributors to Punch magazine under the name 'Fusbos'. In one cartoon [ph7] he portrayed Disraeli sitting the beam (inscribed with 'Parliament of 1865') upon which he is sitting, from which hangs a pub sign for "The Old Pam's Head" — that is parting ways with Palmerston, Pam.



Henry's obituary described, *'His geniality, allied to his gifts as a talker, made him a passport everywhere. Mr Grattan leaves a widow and six children, by a rather late marriage, in somewhat crippled circumstances.'*[9] Henry had two wives, for several years at the same time in different continents. His first wife was a widow, **Ada (Parker) Madison** [ph4], who was a well respected actress in her own right and took on a stage name of **Emma Grattan**. She was from London but was performing in New Orleans by 1836. They had two children. Ada/Emma is thought to have died in 1876 in America but, by then Henry was back in England. Henry's second 'wife' was **Elizabeth Shaw** from the Manchester area and 37 years his junior. Funnily enough they didn't marry formally but started their family by 1865. All the children began their working lives on the stage. Suitably dramatically, Henry died on Christmas Day 1889, aged 79.



The eldest two Plunkett/Grattan children, **Emilie Ada Willoughby Plunkett** and **Harry Willoughby Grattan Plunkett**, were child actors, both with the stage name Grattan, first starring in Rip Van Winkle, aged eleven and eight respectively. Harry became a stage actor, singer, dancer and writer,

best know for musical comedies in the early 1900s and has his own Wikipedia page. It was Emilie and Harry who married into the Leveson family.

In 1889 Harry, *'quite an eccentric'*, married Constance Elizabeth Frances Leveson and they had two sons before Constance died aged 39. Harry married again.

Meanwhile, in 1892 Emilie Ada Grattan Plunkett had a son, **Henry Samuel Francis Temple Vaughan Jerrard**, fathered by a barrister **John Francis Jerrard**

[ph5]. He was already married to an American woman at the time. Son Henry was raised by other people and did well — he was one of the first people ever to fly an aircraft (his licence number 13) and he fought in both World Wars, rising to the rank of Air Commodore and receiving a CBE from the King.

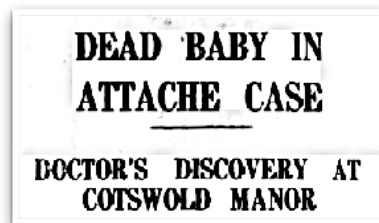
Then, in 1898, Emile Ada married **Wilfred Cecil Leveson**, listed as a bank registrar in the 1911 census but then as a farmer in the 1939 pre-war register. Wilfred Cecil served as lieutenant in the Welsh Guards during the first war; bringing supplies to the front. They had a son **Cecil Charles Ashton Plunkett Leveson** who became a commercial artist.



Meanwhile Charles Augustus and Eliza's son **Charles Henry Leveson** had a military career, serving with the 18th Hussars for 23 years. He served in India, West Africa, Egypt and Sudan and was, for a time, acting governor of Kordofan. In 1912 Charles was awarded the DSO after a special mission to Egypt *'to punish a tribe for constant raids on the Nuer tribes, and to check illicit gun running'*. Two Captains, three Egyptian officers and 42 Sudanese soldiers died and Charles Henry was severely wounded. King George V came to his bedside in the hospital to give him the medal and tripped over a drainage tube!

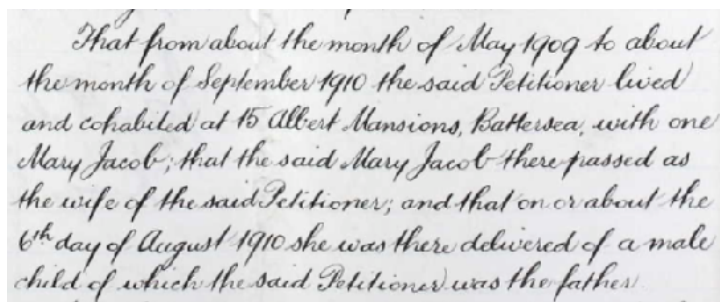
At the age of 46 Charles Henry married **Annie Marguerite Lower** and they had a son, **Henry Simon Lower Leveson**. In 1937 their servant, Dorothy Merrick, gave birth to a baby on their premises, the Georgian Hambrook House [ph6] and put it in an attache case. Annie found the baby in the case.

Unfortunately a doctor was of the opinion that the baby had died after birth and so Dorothy would have faced dire consequences [10]. In 1935 Charles and Annie's son was found guilty of *'driving a motor car without reasonable consideration of others'* generating a headline of *'Mayor's warning to young motorist, bench's serious view of larking, man who drove with head out of sunshine roof'*! Unfortunately, during the war he was declared missing, presumed dead on 23 May 1940, aged 22, serving for the Irish Guards.



Charles and Eliza's youngest child, **Dora Marguerite Blanche Ashton Leveson** married **Albert George Parsons**, a stock broker's clerk who had been the organist at Charles Augustus' church in Hemel Hempstead. They had a son and a daughter before the marriage fell apart and they separated. In March 1912 Albert took Dora to the divorce courts on the grounds of *'between the months January 1909 and August 1911 Dora committed adultery with N Thompson and on the 27th August 1911 she gave birth to a daughter of whom the said N Thompson was the father.'* The decree nisi was awarded on 28 October 1912. However, probably realising the financial

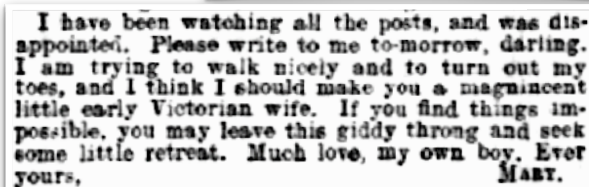
implications facing her — hefty legal costs and complete removal of income, Dora responded, ‘from the month of May 1909 to about the month of September 1910 the said petitioner lived and cohabited with Mary Jacob, as husband and wife and that on or about 6 August 1910 she was there delivered of a male child of which the petitioner was the father’.



That from about the month of May 1909 to about the month of September 1910 the said Petitioner lived and cohabited at 15 Albert Mansions, Battersea, with one Mary Jacob; that the said Mary Jacob there passed as the wife of the said Petitioner; and that on or about the 6th day of August 1910 she was there delivered of a male child of which the said Petitioner was the father.

Oh dear. Albert’s son was born before Dora’s daughter! The divorce case was rescinded in July 1913 on the grounds that there was collusion and so they had to remain married and Albert, as the petitioner, had to pay costs and continue supporting Dora.

The papers had a heyday, claiming ‘*the King’s Proctor Wins*’ [12]. The papers revealed that Albert claimed that Dora had ruined him financially, neglected the children and planned to go away with a certain young fellow, ‘an aristocrat’. However, Albert’s case was jeopardised when a love letter from Mary Jacob was discovered, dated before the separation from Dora. In the end Albert stayed with Mary for the rest of his life and Dora remained single, no doubt with some male friends. Incredibly, all the children involved seemed to have good, respectable lives.



I have been watching all the posts, and was disappointed. Please write to me to-morrow, darling. I am trying to walk nicely and to turn out my toes, and I think I should make you a magnificent little early Victorian wife. If you find things impossible, you may leave this giddy throng and seek some little retreat. Much love, my own boy. Ever yours,
MARY.

In contrast to some of her siblings, Charles Augustus and Eliza’s daughter, **Lucy Adelaide Leveson** never married and led a long and exemplary life. She remained a source of family news and memories for the younger generations of the family.

This family was beset with bad fortune and some poor choices, many of which made the headlines. However, they must also have made a positive, creditable contributions to society which, unfortunately, weren’t reported. As a descendant summarised, “*The evil that men do lives after them – the good is oft interred with their bones*”. It’s a privilege to share their story, warts and all, and may they be remembered favourably by future generations and all who read this account.



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’.

Settle Graveyard Project

Thanks to descendant Richard Leveson for his help with this account and to fellow enthusiast John Langford. Navy Settlements diagram with thanks to Nigel Mussett, archivist for FoSCL. Sketch by the talented Teresa Gordon

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 — Daily News, 3 — Truth, 4 — Monmouthshire Beacon, 5 — Morning Herald, 6 — Morning Advertiser, 7 — Cheshire Observer, 8 — Manchester Evening News, 9 — The Stage, 10 — Gloucester Citizen, 12 — Weekly Dispatch

ph1 — credited to family descendants via Ancestry.co.uk, username Anneka Wharton, ph2 — credited to descendant Richard Leveson, ph3 — credited to family descendants via Ancestry.co.uk, username Robert Candy, ph4 — credited to family descendants via Ancestry.co.uk, username E. Michael D. Scott, ph5 — credited to family descendants via Ancestry.co.uk, username cgb125, ph6 — credited to drewatts.com, ph7 — credited to the University of Florida Library via victorianweb.org

Other sources: The Railway Years in Chapel-Le-Dale 1870 - 1877 and The Chapel of the Fells both by Gerald Tyler, The New Railway To Scotland by David Occomore, Shanty Life on the Settle-Carlisle railway and How they built the Settle-Carlisle Railway both by W R Mitchell, The Railway Navvies of Settle: the end of the line by Sarah Lister.

Birth, Marriage and Death certificates provided by the General Records Office, covered by Crown Copyright. Census returns and baptism, marriage and burial records via ancestry.co.uk, originally from The National Archives.