

World War I heroes, Part 2

In 2022 Settle Graveyard Project researched the lives of those who died during WW1 and were mentioned on the Church War Memorial.

However, many other young men and women from Settle also lost their lives. If they, or their parents, were not regular church attenders they would not have been included on the church memorial.

So, this year we remember some of the other heroes mentioned on the Settle war memorial, the school memorial, the Zion Chapel Roll of Honour and others who were born in Settle but not remembered on any of these. Many were included on more than one memorial. All those on the Methodist Church memorial are included elsewhere.

The war memorial obelisk was originally planned to sit on top of Castleberg Rock but technical difficulties prevented that. Then it was intended to be in the Market Place, replacing the old fountain, but was finally placed at the Bridge End corner in the middle of the junction. It cost £527. Brassingtons' were one of the main companies contracted to erect the memorial so perhaps they influenced this decision! The arrival of bigger and bigger lorries



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THE CENOTAPH, SETTLE.

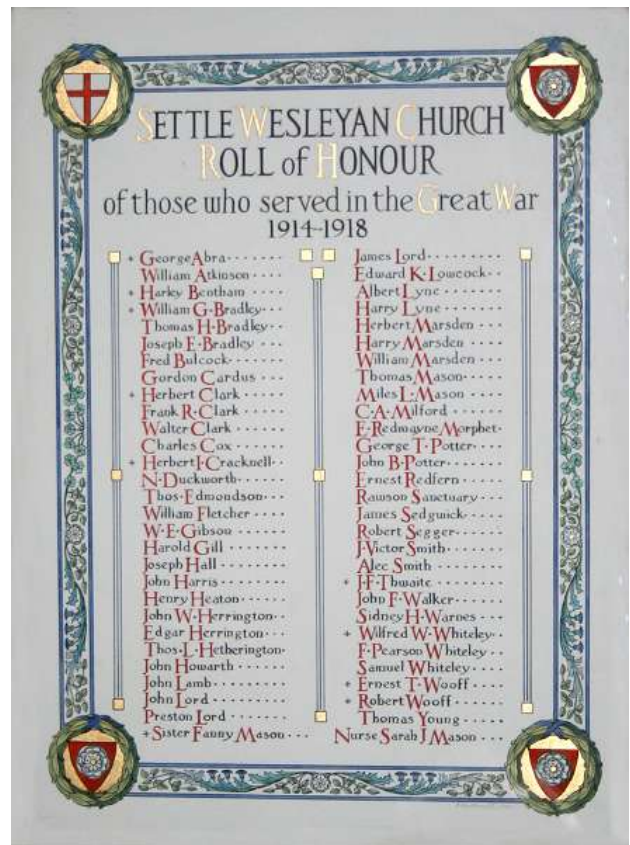
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Settle Graveyard Project

from the quarry inevitably led to moving it a few metres back to its current position in around 1969.



The school Memorial Tablet was put on the walls of the National School in Upper Settle. It was unveiled by Mr John Wilson, previously a headmaster at the school who lost his grandson during the war. After the school closed the tablet spent some years in an attic of the building before moving to the reception area of Settle Primary School where you will find it today.



There are numerous other men and women who sacrificed their lives and are remembered on other memorials in the local villages.

Thanks to John Reid for the cenotaph photos. Portrait photos are credited to 'Craven's Part in the Great War'. Other photo credits upon request.

Contact the Graveyard Project:

The project is ongoing and it's always great to hear comments and ideas from interested folk, especially if you happen to be a descendant of one of our churchyard burials.

Email settleresearch@gmail.com to contact Sarah Lister with any queries about the project and to receive latest information and updates

Settle Graveyard Project Facebook Page for latest news, events and Tuesday Tales



Research findings are posted on this website. Follow the link to Settle Graveyard Project on the home page. These pages are updated weekly.

www.dalescommunityarchives.org.uk

Findings are being added to the church burial records which are now available to the public online at

www.settlechurch.uk/hagryd



Settle War Memorial

John Bowker was the eldest son of **Thomas Bowker**, an Overlooker (foreman) at Bridge End Mill in Settle, and his wife **Jessie McDowell** who had come over to Settle from Belfast as a teenager to work in the mills. From the age of 18 John served as a regular soldier for seven years with the 1st Battalion East Lancashire Regiment in South Africa during the Boer Wars. He left the Army on the 5 February 1904 and joined the Police in the West Riding Constabulary, posted to Denby Dale. He married **Mary Crossley** in 1907 and they had two children.



In the war John served in France with the 21st Service Battalion Prince of Wales's Own West Yorkshire Regiment, the Wool Textile Pioneers. He was badly gassed during the Battle of the Somme and taken back to a hospital in London. Unable to fight he worked at Rugeley Camp with the West Yorkshire Training Battalion and was an Acting Corporal when the effects of the gas and muscular rheumatism came back and he died on 10 July 1917. He has a commonwealth war grave in Elland Cemetery. John's younger brother, **Edward Victor Bowker**, was killed in 1920 at Hellifield Station, aged just 19 – this was a very stressful time for his parents who were eventually buried with son Edward in Settle in *Old H26*.

In memory of Edward dearly loved son of Thomas and Jessie Bowker died March 18th 1920 Aged 19 years. Also of the above Thomas Bowker died July 18th 1934 Aged 77 years. "Thy will be Done". Also Jessie his wife died Jan 13th 1949 aged 92 years.



Private **Joseph Ronald Lord** was the third son of **Richard Lord**, a grocer and labourer and his much younger third wife, **Jane Ellershaw** – she was 33 years younger than him. Richard lived in several addresses in Upper Settle and had a houseful of 14 children and step-children via his three wives.

John Ronald worked as a shop boy for a draper



before signing up. He was assigned to the Kings Own Royal Lancaster Regiment and was reported missing, presumed to be dead, during the Battle of Ypres. He was last seen alive on 2 March 1916. He was 22.

Private Robert Henry Richardson was one of 12 children of **William Richardson** and his wife **Mary Ann Lambert**. William became a carter and coachman for **Walter Morrison MP** at the Malham Tarn estate so would have known **Charley Grove** (School Memorial). In 1914 Robert had married **Ellen Crane** from Northamptonshire, a parlour maid at nearby Flasby Hall and they lived in Gargrave where Robert worked as a farm labourer.



Robert enlisted at Crosshills rather than waiting to be called up and joined the 17th battalion of the Northumberland Fusiliers. On 18 October 1916 they were sent to work on railway construction (Newcastle Railway Pals). Robert died from meningitis in Etaples military hospital, after just three days of combat on 23 December 1916, aged 27.

When Robert died he left Ellen with an eight month old daughter and three months pregnant with a son, conceived during leave. They lived on Ingfield Lane in Settle after Robert's death.

For some reason Robert's name was not included on the war memorial but, after an appeal by descendants over 90 years later, his name was added. The inscription for '1916' was made smaller to allow his name to be added. Sadly Robert had been just one of hundreds of local men were not remembered on official war memorials.



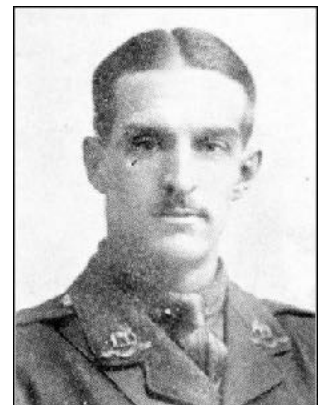
Zion Chapel Roll of Honour

Captain **Claude Denman Bennett** was in the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment. As an officer he is remembered on war memorials in Langcliffe, Skipton, Ermysted's School as well as in the Zion Chapel Roll of Honour. Claude was born in Skipton to **John Bennett**, an engine driver, and his wife **Anne Clay**.



Claude was the son of a railway engine driver and was born in Skipton. He trained as a teacher and worked in schools in Skipton and Huddersfield. He worked his way up to become the headmaster of Langcliffe School, appointed in 1911. In his spare time Claude was Captain of the Settle Cadets, most of whom signed up to serve alongside Claude in September 1914. On 22 September children from Langcliffe school went onto the Green to sing songs to mark their departure and the school was left in the capable hands of Miss Brennand. Claude returned to Langcliffe in December 1915 with his new wife, **Doris Green**, who was from Preston and they joined the school Christmas celebrations. In May 1917 Claude was wounded but recovered and returned to duty in July 1917. One week later he was shot by a sniper at Lagnicourt, France and died of his wounds on 18 July 1917, aged 30. Claude's father had died just before him and so he left behind his newly widowed mum and his own widow who married again.

2nd Lieutenant **Eric Marlor** was the son of **Frank Marlor**, a very successful yarn merchant and his wife **Adelaide Rhodes**. Originally from Rochdale the family lived in Bingley and then retired to Close House at Giggleswick. Before the war Eric worked for the family business. In 1914 Eric married **Monica Garstang Buck** who was the daughter of **Dr Charles William Buck**. Dr Buck was famously friends with composer **Sir Edward**



Elgar and he sent Monica several letters.

Eric joined the Artists Rifles of the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment in September 1916 when he was 26. He was reported missing on 3 May 1917 during the Battle of Bullecourt and *'was last seen passing through the German wire at the head of his men. Neither 2nd Lieutenant Marlor nor any of his men reported missing that day have ever been traced or heard of.'* Eric was 27. In 1934 Monica, aged 40, married artist Orlando Greenwood in London. Eric's parents erected an oak carving to the memory of their son and his men in the Memorial Chapel of St Alkelda's church, Giggleswick.



Other fatalities included on the Zion Roll of Honour include John and Robert William Bell, George and Harry Bullock, George Robert Millen, Richard Monk, John Packard, James Parker and William Troughton.

School Memorial

Private **Frederick Baldwin** of the Canadian Infantry was the eldest son of **Dixon Baldwin**, a carter and his wife **Jane Cox** who lived on Albert Hill in Settle. In 1902 Dixon witnessed a tragic accident in which **Thomas Ralph** fell down a shaft at the Horton limeworks. Thomas' leg was amputated but he died two days later. This could be one reason why the family emigrated to Medicine Hat, Alberta a few years later. Frederick signed up to the Canadian Infantry but was 'killed in action' on the Western Front on 2 May 1916, aged 21.



On Monday, at Leeds, an inquest was held when in reply to question, Dickson Baldwin, a fellow workman said he thought deceased must have been skipping over the shaft when it caught him. A verdict of accidental death was returned

Private **Robert Bateson** of the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment was the son of **Thomas Roger Bateson**, a carpenter and his wife **Mary Hawkswell** who lived in Chapel Square. Robert's great-grandfather, **Thomas Bateson** was the stonemason who built Holy Ascension church in Settle in the 1830s. The family moved to Embsay before the war. Robert died of wounds on 23 December 1916, aged 22. Thomas and Mary are buried in *Old H41*



Treasured Memories of a dear father Thomas Roger Bateson who died 2nd November 1917 aged 50 years. Also a dear mother Mary Bateson who died 19th April 1956 aged 86 years. Rest in Peace



2nd Lieutenant **Cyril Frank Butler** of the Royal Field Artillery was the only son of **James Butler**, an 'assistant lecturer in a science school' and his wife **Ada Birtwell** and the family lived on Belle Hill Giggleswick. James worked for **William Marshall**



Watts who also lost a son in the war.

Cyril attended Ermysted's school in Skipton and was a three-quarter back for the Skipton Rugby team and later for York, Huddersfield and Halifax. He was also a talented runner and athlete. He enlisted as a gunner with the Royal Horse Artillery at Huddersfield but died of wounds near Rheims on 8 June 1918, aged 23. His memorial stone is in Margaux.



Cyril's parents left Giggleswick soon afterwards and became publicans at the Paragon Hotel in Huddersfield. Quite a change.

Brothers **William, Robert and James Ewart** were three of the ten sons of Police Sergeant **William Ewart** and his wife and **Janet Maxwell** who were from Dumfriesshire. The last nine sons were all born in Settle. One brother was named **Balfour Hyslop Ewart**, presumably after the local doctor, for some reason. The family lived at the police station on New Road in Settle (now Station Road) at the time of the 1901 census but then moved to Batley for William's promotion to Sergeant.

Fourth son, Private William Ewart of the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry was the first to die on the Western Front on 5 June 1916, aged 20. He had signed up within a week of the declaration of war. Then third son, James Ewart (no photo), a Gunner with the Royal Field Artillery died 9 October 1917. The Craven Herald reported, *'Deep sympathy will be felt for Police Sergeant and Mrs. Ewart, of Batley, two of whose six*



sons have been killed at the Front. Their son, Private William Ewart, fell in action in June 1916, and now Gunner James Ewart, RFA, has died in France. Of the four other sons of Mr. and Mrs. Ewart are still with the forces, Gunner Tom Ewart, RFA, is in India recovering from fever contracted in Mesopotamia. He has also seen service in France. Private John Ewart is in France with the KOYLI, and Gunner Robert Ewart, RGA, and Private Edward Ewart, Queen's Yorkshire Dragoons, are in training in England. Police-Sergeant and Mrs. Ewart will be well remembered when

the sergeant was a policeman at Settle and lived at the Police Station not many years ago. Most of these soldier sons will be remembered by Settle people.'



Meanwhile eldest son Robert Ewart married **Emily Clegg**, a steam engine fireman's daughter, in 1913 and they had two sons and a daughter. Robert, also a gunner with the Royal Garrison Artillery was killed on 6 November 1918, aged 27. He has a memorial stone in Wimille, Calais.

The other Ewart sons survived. For some reason only James and Robert are remembered on the Settle School memorial, even though William was brought up in Settle too.

Private **Charles (Charley) Grove** was one of at least 12 children of **George Groves** and his wife **Elizabeth Alderson**. George, initially a labourer, probably came to Settle for work on the Settle to Carlisle Railway in the 1870s and met Elizabeth here. They lived in Poole's Row and George found employment as a groom, managing horses, perhaps at one of the inns. Charley was employed by **Walter Morrison MP** as his footman, up at Malham



Tarn Hall so would have known **Robert Henry Richardson** who also died during the war. By the time of the 1911 census the family had moved to Nelson where George worked as a cab driver, the horse and cart variety, and Charley worked as butcher and as a barman at the Nelson Hotel.

George signed up and was assigned to the East Lancashire Regiment. He was killed in action on the Western Front on 23 April 1917, age 37.

Staff Nurse **Fanny Mason** was the daughter of **Thomas Mason**, a cabinet maker and his wife **Catherine Elizabeth Capstick** from Hawes. The family moved to Ivy Fold in Giggleswick when Thomas secured a job with Brassingtons. Fanny found employment as a

housemaid in Crosshills before four years of training to be a nurse at Bagthorpe Infirmary in Nottingham. She was employed in St Herbert's Military Hospital in Woolwich. During the war she signed up to the Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service, Special Reserve.



Fanny Mason who was drowned on the Hospital Ship Salta. 10.11.17.

Fanny lost her life when HMHS 'Salta', a hospital ship, was mined and sank half a mile north from Whistle Buoy, Le Havre, 10 April 1917. She was almost 28. 79 lives were lost and Fanny's body was never found. The Craven Herald reported, *'the drowning of Nurse Fanny Mason by the sinking of the hospital ship 'Salta' on the 10th instant caused quite a feeling of gloom in the village, and of abhorrence for the Huns, and much sympathy is extended to her parents. She had been in training as a nurse for the past four years, being successful in all her examinations, and a splendid career was in front of her. She had endeared herself to all her patients by her sympathy and feeling for them in their troubles. Nurse Mason is the first nurse from the Settle District who has made the supreme sacrifice.'* She was followed by Nurse Doris Procter in December 1918.



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. Fanny and Doris are commemorated in St Nicholas' Chapel in the North Transept of the Minster. Fanny is also remembered on a number of local memorials including the brass plaque on the Queen's Rock bridge.

Fanny's oldest sister Sarah Jane Mason also served as a nurse in the war. Her youngest brother Miles Leighton Mason was so keen to sign up that he lied about his age, pretending her was two years older. They both survived.



Settle born and bred

2nd Lieutenant **Victor Rupert Atkinson** was one of four children of Settle District's Chief Medical Officer, **Francis Edward Atkinson**, a very good man, and his wife **Mary Louisa Walker** who lived at Whitefriars in Settle. Victor's sister, **Mary Winifred Atkinson** died in 1897, aged 13 and at this point the family moved to Bowerley in Langcliffe. In 1909 Victor's brother, **Raymond Hey Atkinson**, a trainee doctor had died in 1909, aged 27, from drowning in a lake in the North Yorks Moors. This was not a lucky family.



Victor signed up to serve in the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment. He arrived in France in April 1917 and was killed after heavy shelling at Passchendale on the Western Front on 23 November 1917, aged 20.

Settle Town Council sent a note of condolence to Victor's parents and Francis Edward replied, *'thanking the chairman and members of the Council for their Motion of sympathy passed at their last meeting at the loss of his son. He added that the loss of such a son to him and his family would be a life-long grief, but the knowledge that he had been fighting to give peace and liberty to the world was helping in enabling them to bear their heavy burden.'*



Francis Edward and Mary Louisa are buried in a large family plot *Old D63/4* but there is no mention of their sons on the inscription.

In Most Loving Memory of Mary Winifred elder daughter of Francis Edward and Mary Atkinson of Whitefriars, Settle. Born June 3rd 1884 died at Cheltenham October 24th 1897 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God." Francis Edward Atkinson of Bowerley born January 28th 1852 died September 2nd 1928. Mary Louisa Atkinson born September 21st 1858 died May 13th 1940, Old D63/4



Driver **Jack Walmsley Chapman** was the son of **Margaret Ann Chapman** of Grassington who worked in service at the Commercial Inn at Settle. He was fathered by **John Walmsley**, already married, who made a living transporting coal in his boat along the local canals. Margaret's father was **Kit Chapman** of Grassington, the postmaster and one of the most successful entrepreneurs in Craven. Kit established one of the first motorised omnibus businesses in the area. So, this relationship may not have gone down too well back home. A few years later Margaret married **Paul Ignatius Kelly**, son of an Irish tailor in Settle but Jack was brought up by his grandparents.



In the war Jack served in the Mediterranean Expeditionary Force and was 27 when he died from dysentery in Alexandria Hospital, Egypt on 14 May 1915. Margaret Ann's brother **Christopher Chapman** also died of wounds to his chest on the Western Front in December 1917, aged 36, leaving a widow and two daughters. He had been called up in 1917 despite having poor eyesight as things were getting desperate. Descendants remember that Margaret Ann's nephew **Robert Bownass**, aged 17, burst into tears when he was turned away at a Recruitment



Meeting to sign up for the war, but was accepted a year later, joining the East Yorkshire Regiment. Just seven days after reaching the Western Front in France, Robert's platoon were put in a desperate position in the Battle of Estaires and most were lost, including young Robert.

Lance Corporal **John Snell Ingham** was the son of **Henry Ingham** and his wife **Eleanor Sarah Snell**. Eleanor's mother died when she

was born so she was brought up by her father and aunts and uncles in Settle. Her husband, Henry Ingham, was a cashier at the Yorkshire Bank in Settle for 18 years and then was promoted to the position of manager of the branch in Otley. Henry died of blood poisoning after a fall from his bike five months previously. Young John was just seven when Henry died.



During the war John Snell Ingham joined the Royal Fusiliers and died from shell fire at the Battle of the Somme on 7 August 1918, aged 22.

Private **Richard Metcalfe Lindsay** was born in Craven Cottages in Settle, the only child of **Henry Lindsay** and his wife **Martha Hannah Slinger**. Henry was a police constable, just like his father, **William Lindsay**. Henry was assaulted by a very drunk **Robert Ralph** whilst on duty, after which he was posted to Keighley. Henry served as a policeman for 20 years before his death, aged 46, in 1905 in Menston Asylum.



Richard worked as a weaver for the Rainhall Manufacturing Company in Barnoldswick before signing up. In 1914 Richard married **Ann Mitchell** and they had a son, **Morris Mitchell**, in 1915. Richard was called up to the Prince of Wales' West Yorkshire Regiment in April 1917 and on 27 May 1918 was reported missing. It was two months before the army sent official confirmation that he was presumed dead. Poor Ann.

Gunner **John 'Jackie' Moore Metcalfe** was the son of **Sarah Jane Metcalfe** of Askrigg. Sarah Jane was the daughter of **John Metcalfe** and **Agnes Moore**. A few years after John was born, Sarah married **Edmund Airey**, a Liverpool tram driver and so young John was brought up by his grandparents in



Hawes. John was born in Settle although Sarah lived in Hawes. It's very possible that Sarah Jane came to Settle to give birth at the house of her half-brother **Robert Moore** and his wife **Ann Sunter**. Robert was a railway signalman for 50 years and lived at the railway cottages on Cammock Lane. His wife had already given birth to six daughters so knew what she was doing!



In the war John signed up to the Royal Field Artillery in October 1915. He was badly gassed in January 1918 whilst with the Trench Motor Battery and was invalided home, but went overseas again in July. He was killed instantly by a shell on 3 Oct 1918. *'He was one of the quietest and most unassuming of lads and a great favourite with his comrades, and the townspeople generally. He was for years prior to joining up a member of Hawes Church Choir, and also a member of Hawes Brass Band.'*

Major **Francis 'Frank' Morphet Twisleton** was the eldest son of **Thomas Twisleton** of Winskill and his first wife **Mary Ann Morphet**. Frank was a second cousin to **John Snell Ingham** (above) on his mother's side. Thomas Twisleton is well known as our local dialect poet producing volumes of poetry still celebrated today.



Frank emigrated to New Zealand with a brother, **Thomas Gregory Herd Twisleton**, arriving in 1895. Frank enlisted in the New Zealand Mounted Rifles and arrived in South Africa at the height of the Boer Wars in 1900. Thomas followed him but died of pneumonia the next year, on 25 August 1901. Their father included a poem dedicated to him in one of his poetry collections.

Frank returned to New Zealand and wrote a memoir, dedicated to his brother, in which he highlighted the incompetence of many British army officers and the inequitable treatment of soldiers.



GOOD-NIGHT.

(Lieutenant T. H. T. died 26th August, 1901.)

GOOD night ! thy last day's march is done,
A resting-place is for the brave ;
Unfelt by thee, the morning sun
Will beam upon the soldier's grave.

Farewell ! and sacred be thy rest—
The parting word is fitly spoken—
The turf that lies upon thy breast
Declares that earthly ties are broken.

Strong was the hand and true the heart,
That in the grave lie still and low ;
Well framed to do a soldier's part,
To greet a friend or meet a foe.

Far from the land that gave thee birth,
From friends and kindred far away ;
To them this alien spot of earth
Is hallowed by thy lifeless clay.

Not lone thou art ; for close at hand
Lie men who from Zealandia went ;
All warriors of that Southern Land
Wherein thy latter years were spent.

Here, buried by your comrades' hands,
Your soulless caskets meet decay ;
And, well as in your native lands,
Await the Resurrection Day.

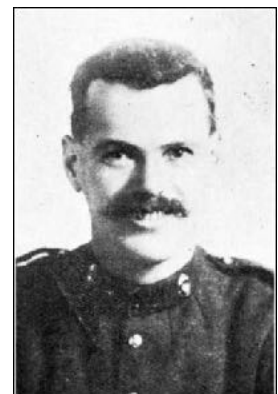
Good night ! good night ! all words are vain
To wake thee to a fair good-morrow ;
God gives thee rest — to us remain
The faith, the hope, the loving sorrow.

Yet parting will less grievous prove
To those who hold thy memory dear,
If from a fairer realm thy love
May reach the hearts that mourn thee here.

Frank returned to farming and married **Emily Mary Speedy** in 1905, when he was 32 and they had two daughters, both of whom remained spinsters.

In anticipation of WW1 Frank organised training camps on his farm. When war broke out he was posted with the Otago Mounted Rifles as Lieutenant and arrived in Gallipoli in May 1915 to face one of the bloodiest campaigns. He wrote that '*I felt that I could scrape the smell of dead men out of my mouth, throat and stomachs in chunks.*' In September 1915 he was taken out of Gallipoli with severe dysentery — a lucky escape. Frank's service in Gallipoli was awarded with the Military Cross. Once recovered Frank was transferred to the Western Front and served just behind the front line, a dangerous position. In October 1917 he was posted to Palestine with the Auckland Mounted Rifles Regiment and promoted to Major. On 15 November 1917 he was shot in the abdomen during action at Ayun Kara and died of his injuries. He was 44.

Private **William Francis Muther Watts** was the only son of **William Marshall Watts** and his wife **Ida Harriette Massey** who was a Canadian widow, Ida's sister, **Arletta Massey** had married William's brother, **Walter Watts**. They came to live in 7 Prospect Terrace in Settle soon after their marriage in 1877 and stayed for 30 years — William was the



Science master at Giggleswick School and was assisted by **James Butler**, father of **Cyril Frank Butler** who was also killed in the war. The Watts had servants at the time of each census.

In 1887, when son William was just six, their domestic servant, **Annie Woolerton**, was burnt to death. Perhaps this contributed to the decision to move away in the early 1900s to Kent? They named their house in Kent '*Ingleboro*'.

A DOMESTIC SERVANT BURN'T TO DEATH AT SETTLE.

About nine o'clock on Friday morning a domestic servant named Annie Woolerton (17), in the service of Dr Watt, at Prospect Terrace, Settle, whilst engaged upon her household duties had her back turned for the moment to a gas stove. Her dress caught

Son William emigrated to Canada, where he had numerous relatives

and worked as a chauffeur. In 1915, aged 34, he joined the Canadian Infantry. His records show that he was just 5 foot 1 inch tall with grey eyes and brown hair.

William was reported missing on 26 September 1916 in the battle of Thiepval Ridge during the Somme offensive in which the Canadian forces had a major role. None of his comrades knew anything about the circumstances of his death. The Canadians suffered approximately 3,500 casualties (killed, injured and missing) and more than 700 Canadians killed in action during that battle have no known grave. William was 35.

In 1909 William's sister, **Dora Watts**, had married **Hermann Joseph Feith**, a toy maker and engineer and the son of a German father and French mother. He served as a driver with the British Expeditionary Force in France, despite being diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. Interesting conversations over the dinner table!

Corporal **John Nelson Slater** (no photo) was born in Settle but, for some reason, does not get a mention anywhere on any of the local memorials, nor in 'Craven's Part in the Great War'. He was the one of nine children of **Stephen Slater**, a railway telegraph inspector and his wife **Annie Brown** who came to Settle from Loughborough soon after the Settle to Carlisle Railway was built. They lived in Croft Street in Upper Settle, then Cravendale House at the bottom of Belle Hill in



Giggleswick and finally at 'Bijou' on Church Road, Settle. Five of their nine children died in infancy or childhood.

John Nelson Slater was their only surviving son and he worked as a commercial clerk in London. He married **Edith Lilian Ingarfield** in March 1905 but, six months after the wedding a daughter, **Edith Maud Slater**, was born and died, followed by Edith Lilian six months later. He married again. His new wife was **Mabel Louisa Marsh**. They had three children but only one son, **Dennis John Slater** survived infancy.

During the war Corporal John Nelson Slater served with the 6th Battalion Queen's Own (Royal West Kent) Regiment. He died of wounds on the Western Front on 23 September 1918, aged 38. This was just months after his dad Stephen Slater's death. John Nelson Slater's life was commemorated on his parents gravestone, *Old H43*



In memory of Stephen Slater, died January 7th 1918 aged 75 years. Also Annie wife of the above, died August 20th 1922 aged 70 years. At Rest. Also of John Nelson their son Killed in action September 23rd 1918 Aged 38 years

It gets worse. His wife's brother **Sydney Charles Marsh** was also killed during the war on 17 January 1917, aged just 20. Her second husband died in 1923, six months after the birth of a son and her third husband died in 1939.

Meanwhile John and Edith's only surviving son, Dennis John Slater was just the right age to serve in WW2. Dennis was a radio operator serving on Steam Ship Mill Hill, part of a convoy transporting cargo to Middlesbrough from Halifax, Nova Scotia. At 2.30am on 30 August 1940, 58 miles off Cape Wrath in the north of Scotland a German submarine torpedoed the convoy, sinking three ships including the SS Mill Hill. It sank within a few minutes with the loss of all 33 hands, a third of whom were from India. How cruel is war?



Mill Hill under her former name Peabtes. Photo from City of Vancouver Archives, CVA 447-2552.2

2nd Lieutenant **William Thomas Pettit** is remembered on one of our gravestones. He was the son of **William John Pettit**, a mechanical engineer and his wife **Elizabeth Coles** who lived in Hertfordshire. William Thomas decided on a military career serving as Corporal for the Royal North Lancashire Regiment in Hampshire at the time of the 1911 census.



Meanwhile, in Settle, **Emily Nelson** of the Duke Street shoemaking family decided that she would like to become a midwife, a new profession in the early 1900s, set up to address the appalling child mortality figures across the country, especially with war looming. She trained in Ipswich and then worked as an army nurse at King's College Cambridge, where she met and married William Thomas Pettit. They had a son **Nelson Noel Pettit** born on Christmas Day 1916.



William was killed on the Western Front on 19th April 1918 in France, aged 30 leaving Emily as a single mum. Emily took the bull by the horns and set up her own midwifery business. Expectant and new mums could pay for a relatively luxurious stay at 1 Halsteads on Duke Street, her maternity home. She also jumped on her bike for emergencies all around the district. Emily was a founder member of the Women's Legion of the Settle branch of the British Legion, a member of the Zion Chapel and a member of the Women's Guild. Her obituary said she was a lady of 'sterling character', cheerful, generous and kind.



Son Noel had a naval career, serving in Egypt and becoming a Lieutenant Commander until he retired and died in Spain in 1973.

In Loving Memory of John Nelson Who died November 2nd 1920 Aged 66 years. Also Eliza Beloved wife of the above who died February 23rd 1926 Aged 67 years Peace Perfect Peace. Also of William Pettit Lieut Loyal North Lancs Killed in action April 19th 1918. Also of Emily beloved wife of William Pettit Died 21st April 1955 aged 69 years, Old H220

