

## Walter Whiteley, postmaster

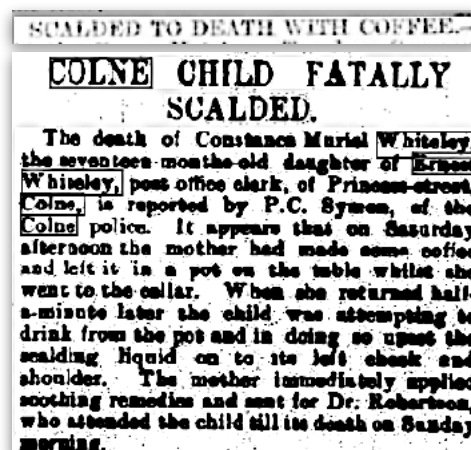
**Walter Whitely** was one of nine children of **David Whiteley**, a carter and his wife **Ellen Freeman** of Halifax [ph1]. Most of Walter's siblings stayed in and around Halifax working in the mills. Walter's elder sister, **Emma Whiteley**, married a mill worker, **Squire Jagger**. Unfortunately she died after the birth of her second son, **Marshall Jagger**. Both her sons served in the war and Marshall [left] was killed, aged just 25, on 21 December 1915. The other son, **Walter Whiteley Jagger** [right] survived and became a civil servant.



Walter Whiteley had a pair of twin sisters, **Mary** and **Martha Whiteley**. After Emma (Whiteley) Jagger died, Squire Jagger married her sister **Martha Whiteley**. This was technically illegal at this point in history but, from research in this project, appears to have been quite common! Unfortunately Martha also died after giving birth to a daughter, **Emma Jagger**. Squire married again and had a further son but daughter Emma was brought up by her mother's twin sister Mary Whiteley.



It was Walter and his brother Ernest [ph1] who opted for something different, both having careers at the Post Office, initially at Colne. Ernest stayed there, married **Lily Petty** and had three children. Tragically their second (of three) daughter was 'scalded to death with coffee' [1] after she tried to drink out of a freshly made pot of coffee. [2]



Meanwhile, in 1888, Walter married **Margaret Annie Pickover Wilkinson** from Foulridge, adjacent to Colne. She was born to **Mary Pickover** a year before her marriage to **Abraham Wilkinson**, a weaver so Abraham may, or may not have been Margaret Annie's dad. Walter and Margaret Annie had three sons while Walter worked his way up from being a Post Office clerk in Colne to being the Postmaster in Kirkby Lonsdale. By 1903, when Walter was 39, the family had moved to Settle where Walter took over the duties of Postmaster at the Duke Street Post



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Office — he could even be one of the men on the photo! [ph2]. The family lived on Prospect Terrace on Station Road and Margaret Annie's ageing parents lived with them. Then they moved to 5 Craven Terrace and eventually at Halsteads, close to the Post Office. The local press indicated Walter was a very busy man! [LSA] Who knew you could post a letter five minutes after the letter box was closed for an extra half penny? The letter box was at the bottom of the right hand window [ph3]. To the left of the Post Office the uprights for a

**SETTLE POST OFFICE, Duke Street.**

Postmaster .. MR. W. WHITELEY.

Box closes.	Parcels accepted up to	Destination.
7-0 a.m. ..	7-0 a.m. ..	Local and Rural Posts only.
*8-15 a.m. ..	*8-15 a.m. ..	Leeds. General Mail.
		*On Mondays the Box closes at 8-30 a.m.
10-55 a.m. ..	10-55 a.m. ..	Leeds and Manchester. General Mail.
12-15 p.m. ..		Second Town Delivery.
1-30 p.m. ..	1-30 p.m. ..	Leeds and Manchester. General Mail.
5-45 p.m. ..		Third Town Delivery.
7-0 p.m. ..	7-0 p.m. ..	General Night Mail, all parts.
9-30 p.m. ..		Supplementary Night Mail, all parts.

On Sundays the Box closes at 6-30 p.m. General Night Mail.

*These times are subject to the change of time of Mail Trains, notice of which is posted at the Office.*

Three deliveries—7-15 a.m., 12-15 p.m., 5-45 p.m.

The office is open to the public on week-days from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sundays from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. During these hours Postage Stamps may be purchased and Letters Registered. Money Order and Savings Bank business is transacted between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., and Postal Order business from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Letters may be posted with an extra half-penny stamp five minutes after the closing of the letter box.

gatepost across the entrance to High Hill Grove Street can be seen. Later Walter became the school attendance officer and was a Trustee of the Methodist church — a very busy man.



Unfortunately all three sons were of an age to be called up to serve in the war and, like so many other families, paid a price.

Eldest son, **Wilfred Wilkinson Whiteley** was reported to be a quiet, kind man who was a member of the Methodist church choir and Settle Tennis Club. He began his working life as a bank clerk for Martins Bank but was one of the four (out of eight) staff who lost their lives in the war and a further two were injured. Wilfred's life was also remembered on the Martin's Bank roll of honour. Private Wilfred Wilkinson Whiteley [ph4] of the Northumberland Fusiliers enlisted at Keighley and joined the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment but was transferred to the Fusiliers. Wilfred died in a hospital in Glasgow on 28 September 1918, aged 29, from wounds inflicted on the Western Front. Wilfred was brought back to Settle and had a funeral service at the Wesleyan Chapel where **William Towler Walker** played the Funeral March. His body





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was then taken around the corner to Settle church for a burial service by **Rev Walter Linney**. The coffin was lowered to the sound of the 'Last Post' and three volleys from the Giggleswick School OTC, of which Walter had been a member.

Second son **Freeman Pearson Whiteley**, known as either Percy or Freeman, was a bright lad, winning a scholarship to Giggleswick Grammar School and then to study Mathematics at Queen's College, Oxford University at which he '*distinguished himself in the examination*'. After this Freeman started working life as a schoolmaster. As the war beckoned he appealed against serving on the grounds that his skills were indispensable and because of his conscientious objection to combatant service [3]. That sounds like potential for a family argument! As a result of all this Freeman served in the war for just one year, from May 1916, as a '*temporary Naval School Master*'. His records tell us he was 5ft 5in with brown hair, blue eyes and a fresh complexion. He was next found at the time of the 1921 census as a Maths teacher and deputy headmaster at Holt secondary school in Liverpool. Then he married and had two children and, in 1926, became headmaster at Waverley Grammar School in Birmingham where he remained for 28 years. He died, aged 88, in Oxford.

**Freeman Pearson Whiteley**, a Brecon mathematical master, who had appealed to the Borough Tribunal on the ground of indispensability and a conscientious objection to combatant service, and whose claim was rejected, was the next appellant.

Youngest son **Samuel Whiteley** was also at Queen's College, Oxford when he was called up in March 1916. He served with the Royal Engineers as a gunner until October 1918. Samuel's job as a lecturer took him to South Africa where he married and had a son, born in India and a daughter born back in South Africa.

Meanwhile, back in Settle, Wilfred's mother, Margaret Annie died, after an attack of influenza, just six months after his death on 10 February 1919. The Settle Wesleyan Circuit Magazine published a tribute to her, explaining that the family had suffered heavily by bereavements and these had taken their toll on her health [ph2]. As well as Wilfred's death, Margaret Annie's dad, Abraham Wilkinson, who was still living with them, died on 25 January 1919, just a couple of weeks before.

Mrs. M. A. Whiteley, the beloved wife of our Society Steward, after an attack of influenza, had a relapse and passed away suddenly early on Monday morning, the 10th February. The family had suffered heavily by bereavements and these (especially the death of her oldest son, which we recorded in our November number), had told very much on her health. Mrs. Whiteley was a devoted member and took an intelligent and active part in the various departments of our Church life and her removal creates a loss which will not be easily filled. The sympathy and

The sons had left home so, after 22 years as Postmaster, dad Walter Whiteley retired back to Kirkby Lonsdale. In 1924, at the Methodist Chapel, Walter married **Mary Annie Wilson**, the youngest daughter of the deceased and disgraced **Joseph Harrison Oddie Wilson**. Joseph was declared bankrupt twice and had a catalogue of convictions, mainly for fraud. A newspaper editor wrote about Joseph, *I would advise all benevolent persons not only to shun 'the man that is without fault' but also to avoid begging imposters with such shady records as this individual*.

1914. Marriage solemnized at The Wesleyan Methodist Church Giggleswick Rd Settle in the District of Settle in the County of Yorkshire

No.	When Married	Name and Surname	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession	Residence at the time of Marriage	Father's Name and Surname	Rank or Profession of Father
30	October eighteenth 1914	Walter Whiteley	60 years	Widower	School Attendance Officer	1 Halstrads Settle	David Whiteley (deceased)	Farmer
		Mary Annie Wilson	62 years	Spinster		1 Halstrads Settle	Joseph Harrison Oddie Wilson (deceased)	Schoolmaster

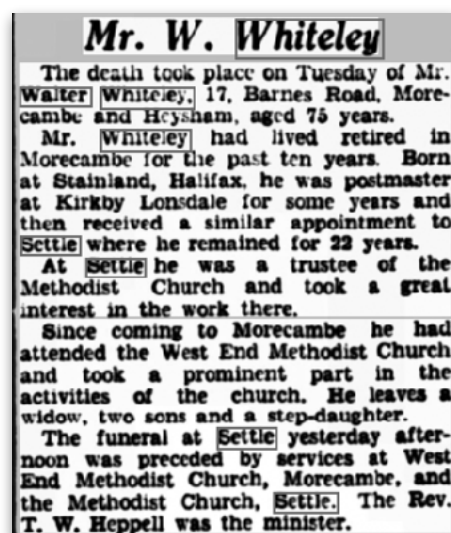
Married in the Wesleyan Methodist Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Wesleyan Methodists by License

This Marriage was solemnized between us, { W. Whiteley } in the Presence of us, { Ernest Whiteley } And in the Presence of { W. H. Bartholomew Gibson }  
 { M. A. Wilson } { Daisy Wilson } { the said Chapel }

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Mary Annie had spent her life running a boarding house for professionals, including bank clerks, solicitors and schoolteachers, in one of the large houses at Halsteads, Duke Street. When they married, Walter also gave his address as 1 Halsteads so was perhaps boarding there when they met. Mary Annie had a daughter of her own, **Daisy Wilson**, who was a schoolteacher. The witnesses to the wedding were Walter's brother Ernest Whiteley and Mary Annie's daughter Daisy Wilson. Walter and Mary Annie moved to Morecambe and had 15 years together before Walter died [4]. After a service at the Methodist church in Morecambe and another in Settle Walter was taken to Settle graveyard for burial in *Old H51* with his first wife and son. They had a private walled grave. He left a healthy estate of £1500 in the capable hands of son Freeman.

***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.***



The gravestone has been exceptionally well preserved and stands out amongst others in the graveyard. Widow Mary Annie stayed in Morecambe and died in 1949, aged 87.



There was another, unrelated Whiteley family in the area. **Thomas Whiteley** was a Langcliffe born tailor who had a family of at least nine with his wife **Ann Lofthouse**. Most notable of their children was a son, **George Inkerman Whiteley**, born in December 1854. The Battle of Inkerman must have inspired his middle name. It was fought as part of the Crimean War on 5 November 1854 and was regarded as a significant victory, breaking the will of the Russian army. It was known as '*the Soldiers' Battle*' because men had to fight on their own initiative due to the foggy conditions [ph5]. Naming George after this battle is an indication of the values of the time — perhaps a member of the family had been fighting out there? Unfortunately the Crimean War took a turn for the worse after this with the siege of Sebastopol.



Like his father, George Inkerman Whiteley also took up the tailoring trade becoming a salesman for the **Simpson and Pilkington** business in Settle. George lived on Belle Hill in Giggleswick with his wife, **Agnes Young** and three children, including a pair of twins. George died in 1924, aged 69 and was buried in Giggleswick graveyard, probably with his wife who died four years before him.

***In loving memory of Agnes the beloved wife of George Inkerman Whiteley of Giggleswick who died Sept'r 3rd 1920 aged 55 years. B8/112***



## Settle Graveyard Project



*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](http://Ancestry.co.uk) includes the families buried in the graveyard. The project is ongoing and welcomes queries and information on [settleresearch@gmail.com](mailto:settleresearch@gmail.com). Latest news and events are on the Facebook page 'Settle Graveyard Project'.*

*Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Nelson Chronicle, 2 – Burnley Gazette, 3 – Brecon County Times, 4 – Morecambe Guardian*

*ph1 – credited to family descendants via [Ancestry.co.uk](http://Ancestry.co.uk), username mauricemckean, ph2 – with thanks to John Reid, ph3 – credited to the Back in Settle Facebook page, submitted by Hector J Hill, ph4 – credited to Craven's Part in the Great War, ph5 – credited to Wikipedia, The 20th Foot at the Battle of Inkerman by David Rowlands*

*LSA - Lambert's Settle Almanac with the kind permission of the Museum of North Craven Life*