

John Sturdy, gardener

John Sturdy was born in 1821 in Lincolnshire. By 1861 he had been married, widowed and left with a daughter **Sarah Ann** who was brought up by her Sturdy grandparents. In the 1861 census he was recorded as a widowed gardener living at Broughton near Skipton. Soon after he married **Margaret Peacock**, the daughter of a Skipton joiner Ralph Peacock. John and Margaret moved to Chapel Square in Settle. His daughter Sarah Ann followed him to Settle but died, aged 18, in 1870 [1].

John continued to work as a gardener, probably for one of the larger houses in Settle, while Margaret worked on producing five children, although **Lilly Margaret** died in infancy in 1870 and is buried in the Ancient graveyard. At Christmas of that year John got caught trying to earn a few extra pennies by selling the workhouse a Christmas tree [1].

John died in 1878, aged 57, and is buried in the Ancient graveyard, hopefully with Lilly Margaret. Widow Margaret lived the rest of her life on Higher Croft Street with children.

Youngest daughter **Emma Isabella** married **John William Marsden** who worked with his father Thomas Marsden. Thomas had run the Folly Refreshment rooms [ph1] and the carriage service at the Talbot providing transport to and from Giggleswick Station [LSA]. Eldest daughter **Emily Alice** married **William Thompson** a railway platelayer from Long Preston.



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 a Tinner and Brazier,
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Corn & Flour Bins,
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 SLOP PAILS, KETTLES, MILKING CANS,
 and a variety of IRON and TIN GOODS.
 REPAIRS neatly and promptly executed.

Gisburn.—On the 6th inst., at Nappa, Sarah Ann, daughter of Mr. John Sturdy, gardener, Settle, aged 18 years.

CAUTION TO GATHERERS OF CHRISTMAS EVERGREENS.
 —**John Sturdy,** gardener, **Settle,** appeared before the Bench of Magistrates on Tuesday last in answer to a charge of having cut and taken away a young fir tree out of Stovrib Wood, in the township of Giggleswick, the property of the Misses Procter, of Long Preston. The defendant it appeared had sold the tree to the Master of the Workhouse, under false pretences, by whom it was purchased to be used as a "Christmas Tree" at the annual Christmas treat at the Workhouse. The defendant pleaded guilty, and on the recommendation made by the complainants, the Bench ordered the defendant to pay a fine of 6d. and 5s. damages and costs.

TELEPHONE NO. 33.

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GOOD STABLING.

John and Margaret's younger son **Reginald Edwin Sturdy** was a grocer. He married **Eliza Rowlandson**, the illegitimate daughter of Mary Rowlandson, who later became the second wife of William Lord. Eliza's unmarried uncles **William** and **Anthony Rowlandson** lived near the Sturdys and are buried together in the unmarked grave DX4. Anthony was a tinner [LSA].

Reginald and Eliza are buried in the unmarked **Old KX35** with their son Ernest who was 31.

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Reginald and Eliza's daughter **Ethel** married **William Harold Harrison** from Lancaster who became the caretaker of the Town Hall. They are buried in the unmarked *KX60*. Son **John Hastings Sturdy**, a grocer on Church Street married **Ada Sewell** a gardener's daughter from Bolton by Bowland. They buried in the unmarked grave *New BX29* with Ada's dad, Charles Henry Sewell. Their daughter **Emmeline** married **William Hayton**. Their daughter **Mary** married **Norman Butterfield**, a well known Settle character.

John and Margaret's eldest son **Herbert Hastings Sturdy** inherited his father's green fingers winning 'a special prize for a choice collection of wild flowers, beautifully set out and named in Latin' in the Kildwick Parish Floral and Horticultural Show [2].

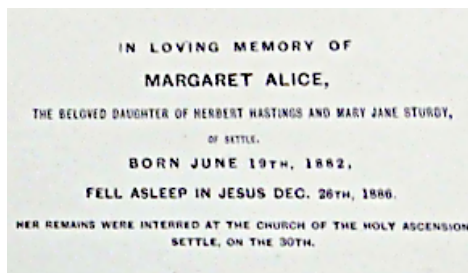
mary and sage. **Herbert H. Sturdy**, a youth from Settle, was awarded a special prize for a choice collection of 12 British wild flowers, beautifully set out and named in Latin. Alfred W. Barnes, of Skipton, showed four

Herbert didn't choose a career in gardening but instead became a printer compositor perhaps working with Lambert's printers. When he was 19 Herbert married **Mary Jane Baldwin**, one of at least nine children of **George Baldwin**, a Settle railway worker and **Alice Langstroth**. Mary Jane gave Herbert four daughters and a son although **Margaret Alice** died aged four. They lived in several addresses in Upper Settle and Kirkgate and retired to Cammock Lane.

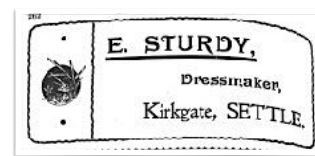
As time went by Herbert and Mary Jane diversified. During the 1890s they ran a Temperance Bar [LSA]. Temperance Bars were very popular around this time in Settle and had support from the Settle Church of England and Gospel Temperance Unions. They were the equivalent of a glorified late opening coffee shop. Few of these businesses lasted long, the most successful being that at the Commercial Inn (next to the current Commercial Yard) which had previously been the Joiner's Arms. Herbert and Mary Jane were buried in the Old graveyard *C26* with their young daughter **Margaret Alice**. Herbert's mother **Margaret** is with them [ph2].



In loving memory of Herbert Hastings Sturdy born 18th Nov 1861 died 10 Sept 1932. Also of Mary Jane his wife born 15th June 1862 died 19th June 1841. Also of Margaret Alice daughter of the above born 19th June 1882 died 26th Dec 1886. Also of Margaret Sturdy born 11th April 1830 died 11th April 1910, Old A26.



Herbert and Mary Jane's daughter **Matilda** married **Whittaker Thornhill**, a railway porter. Daughter **Emily** ran a dressmaking shop in Kirkgate [LSA] before she married **James Fletcher**, one of the 13 children of **Thomas Fletcher** - see **Gifford**. James was a tailor and served an apprenticeship with **James Procter**. James Fletcher is buried in the grave *New 18* with his sister **Evelyn Mary Cardus** but is not commemorated on the stone. Emily is not buried with him.



Herbert and Mary Jane's daughter **Gertrude** and son **Reginald Baldwin Sturdy** married siblings **James** and **Hannah Louise Barrett** whose father was a Westmorland railway worker. They all lived in Settle. James was a shop assistant. There were no burial records for James and Gertrude - perhaps they were cremated? **Reginald**, a shopkeeper and **Hannah Louise** were buried in the New graveyard *H20*

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*In Loving Memory of Reginald Baldwin Sturdy, Died Oct. 24th 1944 aged 50 years
Also his wife Hannah Louise Died Aug, 27th 1964, Aged 73 years R.I.P.*



Mary Jane (Baldwin) Sturdy's parents and brother **Charles Robert Baldwin** are buried in the unmarked grave *Old CX26* directly behind her grave. Her dad, George, died suddenly from natural causes, aged 59, in 1892. Her widowed mother, Alice, lived with Mary Jane's sister **Bell (Baldwin) Banks** in Lancashire until she died in 1914, aged 82. Bell's husband **John Banks** was a billiard hall proprietor near Redditch, Warwickshire.

Mary Jane's youngest brother **Dixon Baldwin** had emigrated to Canada in 1904, farming with his family. Brother **Charles Robert Baldwin** was a solicitor's clerk in Skipton. In 1923, aged 56, Charles took his wife **Mary Ann (Etherington) Baldwin** and two children out to Canada as well. However just two years later Mary Ann successfully went to the divorce courts on the grounds of Charles' desertion. Charles had come back to Skipton where he died in 1929. He is buried with his parents. Mary Ann and their two children spent the rest of their lives in Canada.

DIVORCE RECORD	
Name of each	Mary A. Baldwin
Name of each	Charles R. Baldwin
State or Country in which married	Leeds Eng.
Date of Filing Petition	May 19 1925
Who was Libellant	Wife
Was Case Contested	No
Date of Decree or Judgment	Oct. 10 1925
Case for Which Divorced	Desertion

Perhaps Charles and Mary Ann may have agreed that divorce in Canada was easier and less scandalous than in the UK?

After a life weaving in Lancashire, once widowed, Mary Jane's uncle **Robert Langstroth** lived with the Baldwin family back in Settle. He spent his last years in the workhouse and is buried with three other workhouse unfortunates in the unmarked *Old AX8*.



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

Life stories can be found on dalescommunityarchives.org.uk/settle-graveyard-project. The 'Old Settle' family tree on ancestry.co.uk includes the families buried in the graveyard. The project is ongoing and welcomes queries and information on settleresearch@gmail.com. Latest news and events are on the Facebook page 'Settle Graveyard Project'.

The life stories of people with italicised names have been researched as part of the graveyard project.

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Lancaster Gazette, 2 – Leeds Mercury

LSA - Lambert's Settle Almanac, and ph1 with the kind permission of the North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust

ph2 – credited to the Back in Settle Facebook site