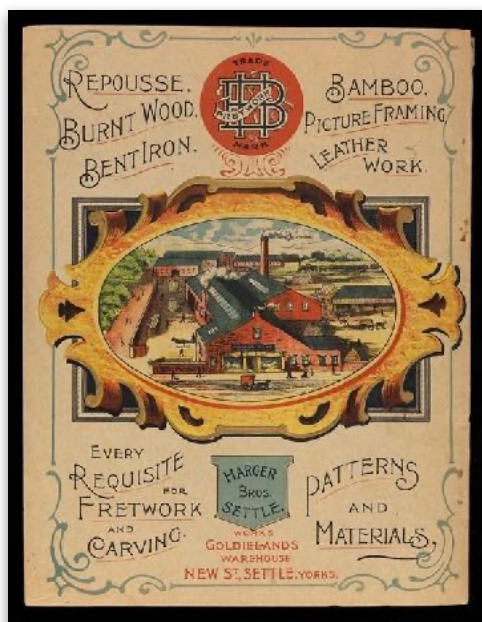


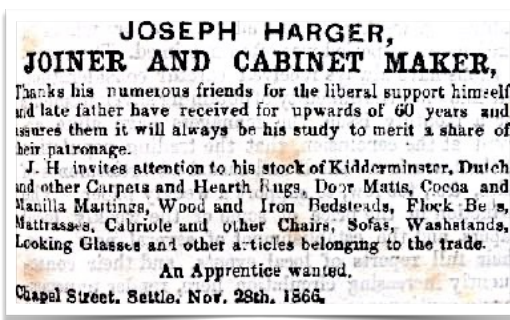
## Joseph Harger, a joiner extraordinaire

Joseph Harger, the only surviving son of **Robert Harger** and **Agnes Hallpike** [ph3], took over the family joinery and cabinet making business. Robert was apprenticed to Agnes's father, **Vincent Hallpike** in 1792. Mr Hallpike was



obviously a good teacher as Robert established his business in 1805 and his building empire succeeded in Settle for generations, well known for their quality fretwork and carving [SC,LSA, ph1]. The business was at Goldielands with premises reaching down to the river.

The Hargers were active Methodists in the Settle circuit which included Rathmell, Horton and Langcliffe. Joseph became a teacher and Superintendent Minister, serving for more than 70 years, alongside **John Lord**. In the mid-nineteenth century support for the non conformist movement in Settle was at its peak. Unlike the Church of England clergy, these men (and very occasionally women) worked voluntarily outside the hours of their full time jobs. Upon Joseph's death, **William Walker** and **Thomas Dixon** took over the office of Superintendent 'with fidelity and efficiency' [A].



The writer remembers being taught in this room, by the late Mr. John Brayshaw.

In the year 1834, the name of Joseph Harger is in the list of teachers and he remained loyal to the school, becoming its Superintendent and until his death in 1886; after his death Mr. Thomas Dixon and Mr. William Walker fulfilled this office with fidelity and efficiency.

The Hargers were, appropriately, involved in the building of both the Methodist Chapel built on Chapel Street in 1810 [ph6], costing around £750, and, in 1893, the one on Church Street in 1893 (recently demolished) [ph5], costing just over £2000, raised by subscription. The Church Street chapel was built by the Harger brothers with stonemason **John Hardy**, (who coincidentally



## Settle Graveyard Project



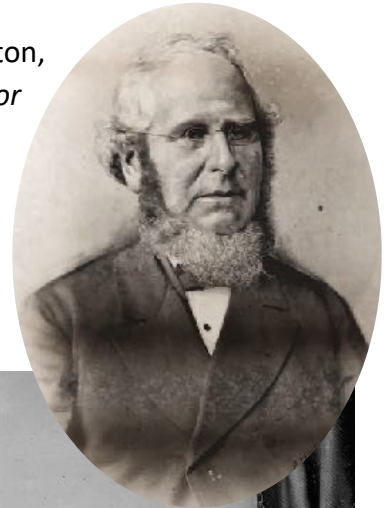
inscribed the gravestone of **Robert Harger** in Skipton, below). The chapel was built 'to seat 352 adults, or 470 persons'. Those were the days!

In 1834 Joseph [ph3] was a founder of Settle Temperance Society in the 1830s, along with **Reverend Ingram** and **John Wildman**. Despite tensions between the established church and the non-conformists resulting in two

separate groups, the temperance movement was very popular and resulted in numerous Temperance Bars and Hotels in Settle during the late 19th century. In January 1841, Joseph married **Margaret Baldwin** [ph2] who was the daughter of a nail maker. Margaret's sister, **Ann Baldwin**, married Giggleswick's postman and shoemaker, **Thomas Oates**, and their account is provided separately. Joseph and Margaret had eight children living on Chapel Street, close to the old Methodist Chapel. They are buried in plot *Old A11*, with the earliest dated memorial stone in the Old graveyard.



*In loving memory of Joseph Harger who died April 14th 1886 aged 76 years. Also Margaret his wife died Sep 12th 1891 aged 74 years. Robert, eldest son of the above died at Skipton Nov 25th 1885 aged 41 years. Also Annie his wife died Dec 27th 1893 aged 49 years.*



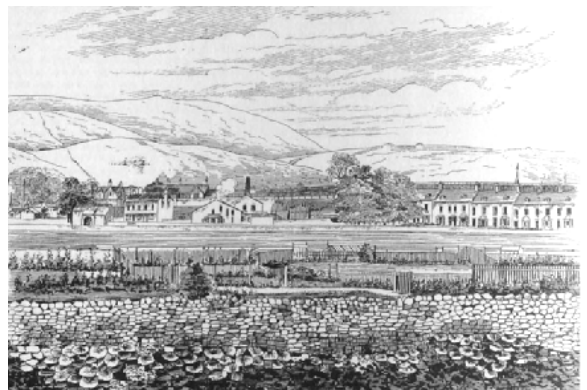
Mrs Harger, photograph by the Horner Studio.  
Horner Collection©NCBPT (CC-BY 4.0)

Joseph and Margaret's eldest son **Robert Harger** and his wife **Annie Kirkby** are commemorated on this memorial stone. Robert was an incredibly successful '*inspector of nuisances*' and health officer and was buried, with a memorial stone, in Skipton. His death (from a weak heart) occurred just as the Old graveyard was opening so there may not have been time to make the appropriate arrangements to bury him here. However, after Robert's significant contribution to the welfare of Skipton, his burial there was quite appropriate. His wife Annie Kirkby died in Morecambe but was brought back for burial in Settle. Robert and Annie have their own account provided separately.

What happened to the rest of Joseph and Margaret's children? Three of them died at a young age and were buried with their grandparents in Giggleswick graveyard. The inscription includes:

*Children of Margaret & Joseph Harger died: Margaret Agnes Feb. 11th 1846 aged 4 years, Ann Agnes Oct. 11th 1858, 5 years, Joseph William April 4th 1870, 20 years.*

Joseph and Margaret's second and third sons, **John Vincent Harger** and **Thomas Harger** continued the family business, both living on Prospect Terrace. The Hargers had built Prospect Terrace a few years previously, just below their Goldielands works [ph4] and also the Halstead row of houses. The main office was



## Settle Graveyard Project

on Station Road, the property now inhabited by the **Mounseys** carpet business. Funnily enough, **John Norman Mounsey** had worked as a furnishing shop salesman for the Hargers in the latter years of the business. The Harger brothers were one of the first in Settle to have a telephone!

Unsurprisingly, Thomas and John Vincent were also an integral part of the Settle Methodist circuit. In 1917 John Vincent's large photo, originally displayed in the chapel, was



*rendered to the Settle Circuit as local preacher, circuit steward, class leader and trustee.'*[ph3] John Vincent's obituary described he *'took his duties very seriously and often made long journeys on foot to*

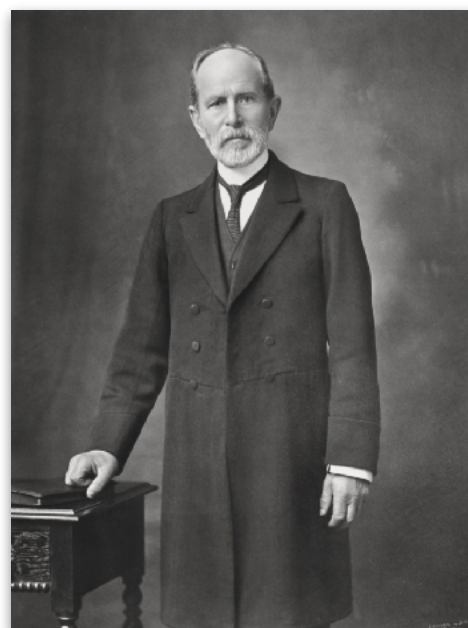
*Ingleton Fells, Horton and Clapham to preach'*, including the navvies at Ribbleshead while the Settle to Carlisle Railway was being built. He was *'one of the most respected townsmen', 'the most religious man in Settle'* and *'would have died a rich man but for his unfailing kindness of heart and generosity'*[ph3].

When he was 26, John Vincent married **Isabella Procter**, a farmer's daughter from Bordley, between Grassington and Malham. She descended from the wealthy **Battersby** family. Isabella's cousin was **Robert Battersby**, a popular and colourful character who spent his whole working life, over 55 years, serving **Walter Morrison MP** as his groom and coachman at Malham Tarn Hall.

By the early 1900s John Vincent and Isabella were of sufficient means employ a domestic servant and, at the time of the 1901 census, **Grace Ethel Heelis**, known as Ethel, worked for them. Tragically, on 20 March 1907 Ethel, aged 21, went missing after visiting her parents [1]. Nearly four weeks later her body was found some four miles away *'in the River Ribble in Wigglesworth too badly decomposed to tell whether there were any marks of violence'* [2]. Coroners referred to marks of violence to indicate a possible attack rather than suicide. **Dr Hyslop** had recently diagnosed Ethel as anaemic and suffering from *'sleeplessness and hysteria'*. That poor girl. Obviously there was no provision for mental health care in those days — a stiff upper lip was expected. John Vincent and Isabella must have been shocked, but employed other servants afterwards.

***In loving memory of Isabella the beloved wife of John Vincent Harger who was taken to her reward April 27<sup>th</sup> 1924 in her 76<sup>th</sup> year. Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours and their works do follow them. Rev XIV 13. Also of John Vincent Harger who passed to his eternal rest February 12<sup>th</sup> 1926 in his 80<sup>th</sup> year. The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, Old K36***

John Vincent and Isabella had just one son, another **Joseph Harger**, who took over



chiefly in connection with his work in the Wesleyan cause that Mr. Harger was so well known. He was a local preacher since 1867. He took his duties very seriously and often made long journeys on foot to Ingleton Fells, Horton and Clapham to preach. When

### SETTLE MYSTERY SOLVED.

#### RIBBLE GIVES UP ITS DEAD.

At Settle yesterday, the Coroner held an inquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Ethel Heelis, aged 21, a domestic servant, who disappeared from her home at Settle on the 14th of March.

A Longpreston youth named Arthur Carr told of finding the body on Sunday opposite Wigglesworth Hall, some four miles below Settle. The body was about a foot off the edge of the water, and greatly decomposed.



## Settle Graveyard Project

the family business, the last Harger to do so, until about 1945. *The 'Methodist Who's Who'* [ph3] explains that Joseph had a number of responsibilities, not least being the organist at the Methodist chapel.

**HARGER, Joseph.** b. 1873 at Settle. (W.). *ed.* Wharfedale Coll. m. Mary Wardlaw, of Cumwhinton, one s. two d. Furnisher. L.P.; Cir. Stwd.; Chap. Stwd.; F.M. Sec.; Poor Stwd.; Guild Sec. J.P. Spl. Int. Church Music. Club. Rotary. Address, Goldielands, Settle, Yorks. Tel. 33.

He married **Mary Wardlaw** who had come to Settle from Cumbria to work in service for **Dr Buck**. They had three children and, during the 1920/30s, moved up to live on The Mains in Giggleswick, in the first house after Yealand Avenue. They were buried in the plot New 119 with their eldest daughter, **Winifred Mary (Harger) Dowdle** who had married **Frederick John Dowdle**, a well qualified art teacher and landscape painter in Wakefield, but died, aged just 37, leaving Frederick with two young daughters.

**Winifred Mary Dowdle, beloved wife of Frederick John Dowdle, much loved daughter of Joseph and Mary Harger, born Nov 1st 1903, died Jan 13th 1941, Also the above Mary Harger born July 5th 1879: died April 3rd 1961. And Joseph Harger, born July 28th 1873: died Nov 14th 1961.**



Joseph and Margaret's third son **Thomas Harger** [ph3] came the closest to scandal that the Hargers could muster. However, well before all that we celebrate his achievements aside from running the business with his brother. Thomas was a member of the first Settle Parish Council, the Chair of the Board of Guardians, a magistrate, Vice Chair of the Governing Body of Settle Girls' High School and was a member of the Rural District Council. Of course, Thomas was an active member of the Wesleyan Church. As a church steward, Thomas laid a dedication stone at the rear of the Methodist Church site on 28 September 1892 [ph3]. What a busy man!



When he was 24 Thomas married **Annie Wildman** of the successful Giggleswick family. Annie's father, **Thomas Wildman**, died less than three months after marrying widow **Mary (Simpson) Beetham** and so would never have seen his daughter. Mary brought up Annie and another daughter, **Hannah Beetham**, from a previous marriage. Her income included some inheritance and the proceeds of a successful millinery and dressmaking business which she ran with her growing daughters, from Duke Street in Settle. In 1867, aged 20, Annie had her photo taken at the Horner Studios, subtly showing off a fine hat from her millinery business! [ph2]



Thomas and Annie didn't have children but adopted **Harriet Gertrude (Gertie) Dalby** who had been born in Burley, Leeds. Gertie was the youngest of eight children of **George Dalby**, a coke foreman and his wife **Sarah Ann Harrison** who lived in Leeds. George died when Harriet was about nine months old and Sarah Ann followed when Harriet was two.

Miss Annie Wildman, photograph by the Horner Studio. Horner Collection©NCBPT (CC-BY 4.0)

## Settle Graveyard Project

It's not clear how Harriet ended up with the Hargers as her older siblings were all looked after by aunts and uncles, still in Leeds. Gertie married Settle's **William Eddy Dugdale**, a successful engineer. Eddy and Gertie Dugdale lived near the Halstead houses, at Overdale on Duke Street where they brought up three sons **Thomas Harger Dugdale**, **Norman Swindlehurst Dugdale** and **John Sydney Dugdale**, known as Tom, Norman and Sydney. Tom and Norman continued their father's successful business and Sydney became an internationally renowned Physicist, publishing numerous well regarded texts on the electrical properties of metals and alloys and thermodynamics. Wow! The full story is provided separately.

Annie died in 1913, aged 65 and was buried in Settle graveyard to be joined by Thomas later. The year after Annie's death, Thomas, aged 66, married 20 year old **Edith Elizabeth Irving** from Long Preston who was pregnant with the first of their three sons. Of these, youngest son **Roy Harger** died an infant and was buried in the unmarked grave *Old K50*, all by himself. Thomas 'of Holsteads' died in 1925, aged 77[2] and Edith Elizabeth married again, twice. Her second husband was **George William Chapman**, a relation of Settle's **Watkinson family** and the manager of **Alfred Pilkington's** shoe shop in Settle. They moved to Clitheroe with the Harger sons. Her third husband was **Alfred Pilkington**, the owner of the same shoe shop.

The death has taken place of Mr. Thos. Harger, of Holsteads, Settle, until recently Chairman of the Settle Guardians, and a man well known in the Craven district. Seventy-seven years of age, Mr. Harger was a member of a well-known Settle family, which, many years ago, founded a wood-carving and fret-work business, which became one of the biggest concerns of its kind in the country. Mr. Harger was a magistrate, and a member of the Wesleyan Church.

Thomas and Annie were buried in the Old graveyard *G40*. The inscription refers to Anne, although she was always known as Annie and Thomas' death date was given as the 8th May when it was in fact the 6th. It's amazing how often gravestone inscriptions include mistakes!

*In memory of Anne beloved wife of Thomas Harger March 20th 1913. Also of Thomas Harger May 8th 1925 aged 77 years, Old G40.*



Joseph and Margaret's youngest two daughters **Mary Ellen Harger** [ph3, left with mum], known as Polly and **Margaret Catherine Harger** [ph3, right], known as Kate, remained spinsters and lived together, initially Victoria Street and, later, near their brothers on Prospect Terrace, often with nieces living with them. Mary Ellen was asked to open the new Wesleyan Sunday School in Hellifield in 1913. Margaret Catherine died in 1941, aged 85 followed by 88 year old Mary Ellen in 1947. They were buried together in the plot *New J19* with their niece, **Sara Agnes Harger**, spinster daughter of their elder brother **Robert Harger** and his wife **Annie Kirkby**. This plot is directly behind the grave of Joseph and Mary (Wardlow) Harger, above.



*In loving memory of Sara Agnes, daughter of the later Robert and Anne Harger of Skipton, born Nov 3rd 1876, died Sep 28th 1938. Also Margaret Catherine Harger, aunt of the above died March 4th 1941 in her 86th year. And of Mary Ellen, sister of the above M C Harger, died March 19th 1947 in her 89th year, New J19*



## Settle Graveyard Project

The accounts of Joseph's ancestors and eldest son are so interesting they are provided separately.



*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'.*

*With thanks to Allan Gould, a Harger descendant for his help with the compilation of this account.*

*Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives, 1 – Hartlepool Daily Mail, 2 – Yorkshire Post*

*A – Memories of my Ministry by the Rev John Woollerton*

*LSA - Lambert's Settle Almanac, SC – Settle Chronicle with the kind permission of the North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust*

*ph1 – credited to the Back in Settle facebook site, submitted by Barry Graham, ph2 – Mrs Harger Image 2022.1.68.15, Miss Annie Wildman, Image 2022.1.68.117 from the Horner Photographic Studio Collection provided courtesy of the Museum of North Craven Life, ph3 – with thanks to family descendant Allan Gould, ph4 – credited to the Back in Settle facebook site, submitted by Pamela Jordan from 'The Century's Progress' 1893, ph5 – credited to the Back in Settle Facebook site, ph6 – credited to The Ancient Parish of Giggleswick, pictorial guide, Settle and District Civic Society*



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