

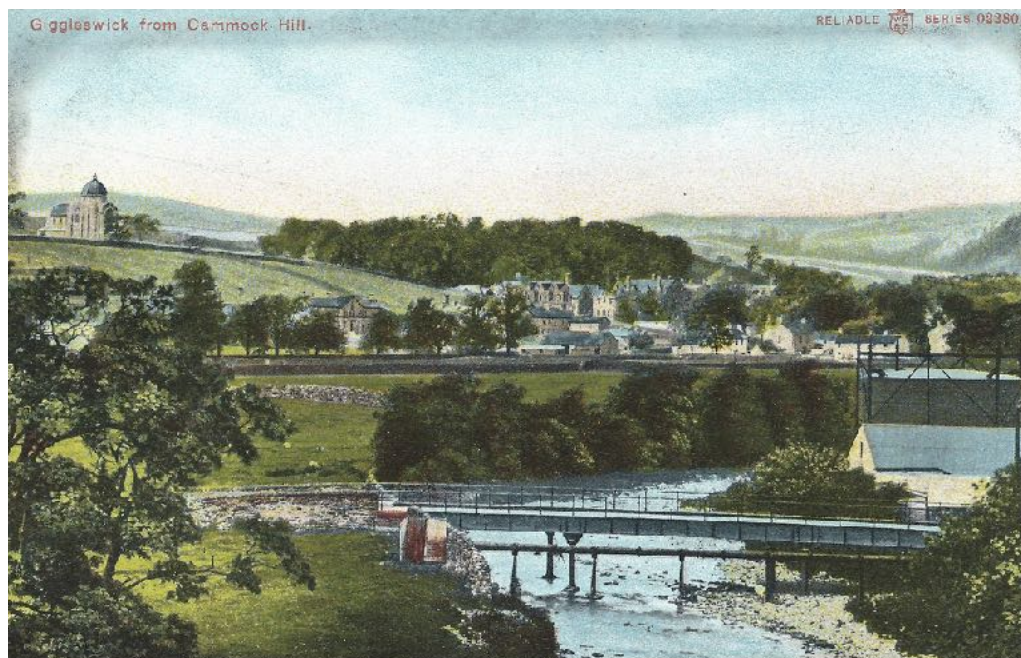
Joseph Edward Ashworth, gas manager

Joseph Edward Ashworth was a late arrival in Settle, coming to the town in 1918 to work as the 'gas engineer and manager' at Settle Gas Company's gasworks at Goldielands. He lived at 1 Prospect Terrace, the gas manager's residence, and a very respectable property too. The gasworks had been in Settle since the 1840s when **John Tatham** and friends set up a fish oil gas lighting system [ph1]. During the early 1850s the gasworks moved to Upper Settle, just beyond the school and 30 feet above the level of the town, resulting in low and unreliable gas pressure. Unfortunately, the gas 'was of such a quality that numerous complaints were naturally made, and when the works became an

What an excitement there must have been in Settle when John Tatham and other friends formed a company to illuminate the town with fish oil gas in the 'forties.

It proved so expensive that they were glad to install the then new process from coal, and a gasometer was erected in the yard near the Victoria Hall, which was a fine amusement for us as we could get into a neighbouring garden and throw heavy sods on to it, which resounded terrifically and brought out Tommy Gas to find the culprit. But we sat under a wall until

complaints were naturally made, and when the works became an absolute nuisance a number of the inhabitants memorialized the Local Government Board for their removal; hence a more suitable site on the south-west or lower side of the town was purchased, and new, suitable, and convenient works have been constructed. Consumers are now asking how soon they



absolute nuisance a number of the inhabitants memorialised the Local Government Board for their removal.' So, in 1882 the gasworks were moved to 'New Road Gasworks', now Station Road, with the HQ behind Prospect Terrace, a gasometer at Penny Bridge [ph2] and a retail shop further up the road towards town, next to **Anthony Horner's** photography shop. The buildings and plant were 'of the most modern and approved kind' providing a better quality of gas at higher pressure and also providing for Giggleswick and Langcliffe which had been without gas up to this point. Over the years Settle Gas Company had been run by some of the town's most eminent businessmen including **John Armistead, John Birkbeck, William Shepherd, Richard Greenwood** and **James Waugh** as well as **John Tatham** [ph3].



Settle Graveyard Project

Later a manager's house was built at Penny Bridge too. *Settle Coal* was established next to the gasworks. *Settle Coal*, run by **Ken Garnett** and **Ted Thornton** bought out a very successful business, '*Settle Limes*', run by **John Delaney** at the Station Yard, with offices at the Conservative Club.

So, who was Joseph Edward Ashworth? He was from Todmorden and both his father, **Willie Ashworth** and grandfather **Joseph Ashworth** worked as '*manager/overlookers*' at the mills. Joseph Edward started working life as a plumber at the mill. In 1879 Joseph (Snr) worked at Derdale Mill, run by Maden and Hoyle. He had to give evidence at a hearing about a fatal accident in which one of the mill flywheels became loose and was hurled 80 yards away, killing 19 year old **Sarah Pilling** [1]. During the trial Joseph confirmed the reliability and maintenance of the machinery, so a verdict of accidental death was given. Over 400 people attended Sarah's funeral. Yet another casualty of Victorian health and safety! The report also mentioned that '*Considerable sensation has prevailed in the town and large crowds of people have daily visited the scene of the accident including numbers of people from distant places.*' Some things never change, do they? The mill was one of the largest in the area and the harsh reality was that the 600 mill workers, including Joseph, had no income for two months while repairs were made. To make matters worse it was very common for whole families to work in the same mill.

With another glimpse of social history, a few years later Joseph had to tell the court about **John Ainsworth**, an employee, who left work early at 6.30am and didn't appear until noon the following day following a day of overindulgence! For this, John was fined 10 shillings [1]. It's interesting that this was newsworthy enough to make the papers.

THE FATAL
DISASTER AT DERDALE MILL,
TODMORDEN.

Since the sad and fatal occurrence which took place at the mill of Messrs. Maden and Hoyle, of Derdale, Todmorden, considerable sensation has prevailed in the town, and large crowds of people have daily visited the scene of the accident, including numbers of people from distant places. Mr. Maden, of Bacup, the

MASTER AND SERVANT.—John Ainsworth, Linc-holme, weaver, was charged with unlawfully absenting himself from his work at Messrs. Maden and Hoyle's mill, Todmorden, on the 26th and 27th February (since which time he has been missing). Joseph Ashworth, the overlooker of the weavers, stated that defendant went away from his work at half-past six on the 26th; he came again at noon drunk, and he told him to go away; the following day he came again at noon and would have pulled his cloth off, and became abusive because he would not allow him.—The defence was that he had been ill,

Joseph Ashworth (Snr) and his wife, **Sarah Greenwood** remained in Todmorden their whole lives. However, son **Willie Ashworth** and his wife **Mary Martha Saville**, from Sheffield, moved a short distance to Great Harwood, near Accrington to work in Birtwhistle and Fielden's mill. They had two sons and two daughters, the eldest being Joseph Edward Ashworth, named after both their fathers.

At this point this story introduces some appallingly unlucky women, more casualties of 19th century life. When he was 24, in 1907, Joseph married **Janet Westwell**, a 21 year old joiner's daughter from Darwen. In 1889 Janet's father, **John Westwell** had a trowel, worth 2s 3d, stolen from him by '*an old offender*' **James Aspden**, aged 43[2]. Despite plenty of evidence James Aspden was acquitted. Unfortunately, Janet's mother, **Grace (Ramsbottom) Westwell** died, aged 50 when Janet was 16 so didn't see their marriage, nor Janet's death, just weeks after their wedding.

ALLEGED THIEF BY AN OLD DARWEN OFFENDER.—On Monday, at Darwen, James Aspden, was charged on remand with stealing a trowel, the property of John Westwell, value 2s. 3d. Westwell bought the trowel at

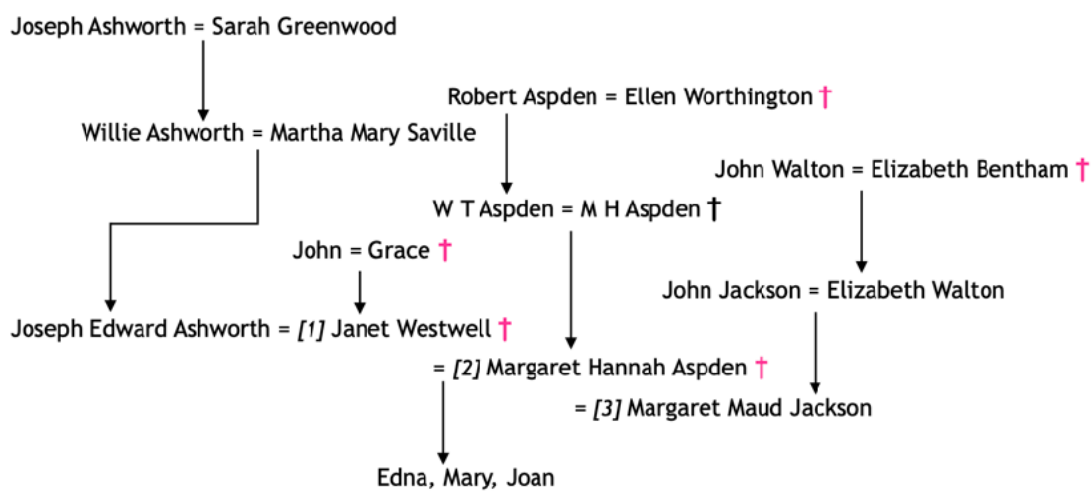
After Janet's death, Joseph Edward returned to live with his parents, working as a gas and water fitter. In 1915, now aged 33, he married **Margaret Hannah Aspden** who may have been related to

Settle Graveyard Project

naughty James Aspden, above. A daughter, **Edna Ashworth**, followed very quickly and then another two daughters. Margaret Hannah Aspden was one of two daughters of **William Thomas Aspden** and his wife, another **Margaret Hannah Aspden** and they could have been related to each other. They ran the Black Bull Inn in Langho, Darwen. Mum Margaret Hannah's own mother died when she was just 5 years old and her father, **Giles Aspden** married again. History repeated itself as Margaret Hannah died at the birth of baby Margaret Hannah Aspden. William Thomas Aspden married again and had three further children. His new wife was **Ellen Marsden** who had worked as a servant in the pub while his first wife was still alive.

The Ashworths

† - indicating deaths of women, perhaps related to childbirth



William Thomas Aspden, named after both his grandfathers, had had his fair share of disruption to his childhood. In 1856 his father **Robert Aspden** married **Ellen Worthington**, a pub licensee's daughter and between them they ran a pub, the Falcon Inn in Montague Street, in the centre of Blackburn. In 1858 two local policemen looked through the window at five minutes past one o'clock at night and noticed Robert playing cards and drinking beer with two men at a round table. This was against the law and Robert was fined 5 shillings for permitting gaming with cards [3]. Then, in 1861, he was fined 2s 6d 'for having in his possession 17 gill glasses which were one-eighth deficient in measure.' [3] It was the first time that proceedings had been taken against a licensed victualler for this crime in this area.

GAMING IN PUBLIC HOUSES.—Robert Aspden, of the Falcon Inn, Montague-street, was charged with permitting gaming with cards in his house on Tuesday night, about five minutes past one o'clock. There were two men, whom the officers, by looking through the window, saw sitting, along with the defendant, at a round table, with cards and beer on the table. P.S. Walmsley went to

DEFICIENT GILL MEASURES.—At the borough police-court, on Friday, Robert Aspden, landlord of the Falcon Inn, Montague-street, was summoned for having in his possession for use in his public-house, 17 gill glasses which were one-eighth deficient in measure. It seems that about two months ago notices

A DESPERATE THIEF.

At Darwen this morning, William Thomas Aspden, carter, Blackburn, was committed on a charge of stealing clothing and jewellery, value £10, from the house of Thomas Pearce Davies, cotton manufacturer. On Saturday, William Haslam, pawnbroker, Blackburn, who arrested the prisoner, was charged by him with threatening to shoot him with a revolver, but the bench commended Haslam on his courageous conduct, and granted him ten shillings to cover the loss of time and damage done by the prisoner in his attempt to escape.

While Robert and Ellen ran the pub, William Thomas Aspden was brought up by his Worthington grandparents which may have lessened the blow when, in October 1861, mum Ellen (Worthington) Aspden died, aged 35. William Thomas Aspden was just three and continued to live with grandparents and aunts and uncles. In 1880, aged 22 William Thomas became

Settle Graveyard Project

a 'desperate thief' [4] when he stole £10 worth of clothing and jewellery. He was caught in the act by a pawnbroker, **William Haslam**, who threatened to shoot him with a revolver. William Thomas Aspden requested a charge against William Haslam for threatening to shoot him with a revolver 'but the bench commended Haslam on his courageous conduct and granted him ten shillings' for the inconvenience. Marriage to Margaret Hannah Aspden seems to have ended his difficulties. After Mary Hannah died William Thomas worked as a butcher and shopkeeper.

Daughter Margaret Hannah Aspden married Joseph Edward Ashworth in 1915 and they were in Settle by 1918. A daughter, **Joan Ashworth**, was born in 1924 but she died, aged two. Unfortunately, Margaret Hannah died three years later in 1929, aged 39. Was there a genetic weakness here and, if so, is this something the women thought about?

Joseph was a member of the Freemasons and on 12 July 1939 the Castleberg Masons went on a day trip to Tan Hill and had their photo taken [ph4]. Joseph is on the right, with his pipe in his mouth, in the good company of **F N Stephenson, R K Preston, Charles A Milford, Frederick Gray, R Romney, W Bunnie, Edward Lord, W. Huddleston, J Hartley and Charles Renshaw.**



Much later, in 1941, Joseph Edward Ashworth, aged 58, married **Margaret Maud**

Jackson, a schoolteacher from Langcliffe. She had had a career in teaching, both in Hellifield and in Settle. She lived with fellow teacher **Mary Brennand** in Kirkgate for a while. Joseph Edward and Margaret Maud had nine years together before she died aged 68, which is quite an achievement for the women in this family, perhaps helped by the fact she didn't give birth to any children. However she had already had her fair share of tragedy. She was one of three children of **John Jackson**, a cordwainer/shoemaker and **Elizabeth Walton** who had been next door neighbours in Langcliffe. It will be no surprise, in this family, to discover that Elizabeth's mother died when she was a young girl, so she was brought up by her maternal grandparents.

Like many others, John's family had come to Langcliffe from Norfolk to find work as mechanisation reduced the need for agricultural labourers in East Anglia. John Jackson and Elizabeth Walton married in 1867 and, at the time of the next census John worked as a mechanic at Hector Christie's mill. They earned a bit of extra income by taking in lodgers, none other than **John Delaney** and his wife **Annie Calver**, whose family had also moved from Norfolk. John and Elizabeth remained in the same house, with John working as a mechanic for Hector Christie for over 30 years. 'Jackson was a most steady man, an excellent workman and highly respected.' Then, in 1897, aged 51 John took his own life and was discovered hanging in a cupboard by his 25 year old daughter, **Ellen Elizabeth Jackson**. John had been 'studying very hard lately on acetylene gas but had shown no sign of being affected in mind [5]. Lack of health and safety again! Margaret Maud

SAD DEATH AT LANGCLIFFE.—On Friday evening last, Mr. **John Jackson**, of **Langcliffe**, put an end to his life under very sad circumstances. The unfortunate man was a mechanic at Langcliffe Mills, where he has been since boyhood. He was a most steady man, an excellent workman and highly respected by all with whom he came in contact. He belonged to the Society of Friends, and only spoke at their meeting the Sunday previous to his death.

Settle Graveyard Project

would have been 16 when he died and remained living with her poor mother until she died in 1920. Sister **Ellen Elizabeth Jackson** married **Ernest Parker** of the Settle joinery business. John and Elizabeth's only son, **Giles Jackson**, started his career as a clerk for **John Delaney** and then married **Duella Brassington** from Settle's joinery empire. Giles was a manager at Austwick limeworks.

After Margaret Maud's death in 1950 Joseph Edward retired to Skipton, perhaps to be near one of his daughters. He died in 1964, aged 82 and was buried with second wife Margaret Hannah Ashworth and his infant daughter in the unmarked plot *Old KX24*.

Joseph's daughter **Mary Ashworth** remained a spinster. His daughter **Edna Ashworth** married **Harry Coates** who was the son of **John Coates**, a successful Malham Moor farmer and his wife **Annie Winskill**. Annie was the daughter of **John Winskill**, the land agent for **Walter Morrison MP** at Malham Tarn Hall. With those credentials it's not surprising that the wedding was a lavish affair with a honeymoon touring Cornwall and Devon [6]. One of their witnesses was **John Butterworth Ellis**, from Ellis' garage. They emigrated to Adelaide, Australia.

After the ceremony a reception was held at the Hotel Falcon, Settle, and later in the day Mr. and Mrs. Coates left for their honeymoon, which is being spent touring Cornwall and Devon. The bride, whose father is manager of the Settle Gas Company, is an old girl of the Settle Girls' High School, member of the Settle Amateur Operatic Society, Beaconsfield Badminton Club, and the Settle Tennis Club. On their return Mr. and Mrs. Coates will take up residence at Lower Trenhouse.

Joseph, as gasworks manager, appointed other men to help run the gasworks. One of these was **Henry George Jones** [ph5] from Leigh, Worcestershire who had arrived in Settle after WW1 with his large family to work as a stoker. He had two daughters and five sons with his wife **Mary Elizabeth Wilson Jones** but all except one daughter remained unmarried. Henry, Mary Elizabeth and daughter **Hilda** are buried in the unmarked *Old KX37*, infant sons **Harry** and **Charley** are in the unmarked *Old HX12* and sons **Albert**, **Harold** and **Arthur** and in the unmarked *New IX18*. When Joseph retired, ex-employees **Stanley Hemingway** and then **Mr Smalley** took over the management of the gasworks.



Settle Gas Company had previously been managed by **Thomas Hardacre**, 'Tommy Gas' above, **Joseph Jackson**, **John Handby** and **Charles William Cromack**. Charles was the son of an agricultural labourer from Leeds. In 1886 in Keighley he married **Fanny Jane Simons**, the daughter of an agricultural labourer from Lincolnshire. They moved to Settle with their two daughters during the 1890s and are buried with a stunning memorial stone in plot *Old H28*. After Charles and Fanny's deaths the two daughters worked in service at Stackhouse and later retired to Grange over Sands.

In Loving Memory of Charles William Cromack who died 25th October 1918 aged 57 years. Also Fanny Jane Beloved wife of the above who died 30th January 1920 aged 57 years. 'Thy will be done'



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.

Settle Graveyard Project

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%20graveyard%20project). 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'.

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Todmorden and District News, 2 – Northern Daily Telegraph, 3 – Blackburn Standard, 4 – Manchester Evening news, 5 – Lancaster Standard, 6 – Lancaster Guardian

ph1 – photo with thanks to Giggleswick Church archives, ph2 – thanks to the Back in Settle Facebook site, submitted by Mike Howarth, ph3 – with thanks to Tom Lord, ph4 – thanks to the Back in Settle Facebook site, submitted by Sue Needham, ph5 – with thanks to descendants via Ancestry.co.uk, username [elisabeth1373](#)