

The elusive Dales sisters

Annie Dales died Oct 11th 1923. Elizabeth Dales died Feb 1st 1946. Mary Dales died Sep 1st 1953. Fanny Dales died May 15th 1955, Old K42

This gravestone inscription doesn't give us many clues about these women, which just about sums up this family. They were really hard to track down! When they died **Annie** was 51, **Elizabeth** was 76, **Mary** was 77 and **Fanny** was 79. Looking at those ages and dates it's no surprise that these women were sisters and Fanny and Mary were twins. We can find no other twins in the family which means they may have been identical. The fact that a memorial stone was purchased indicates there may have been money in this family — indeed there was.

What were they doing in Settle? The sisters were born in Louth, Lincolnshire and arrived in Settle during the early 1900s. They lived at Ferncliffe on Duke Street, between The Terrace and Halsteads rows of houses. Elizabeth and her brother **Joseph Wardle Dales** ran a clothing business from the Post Office Buildings just down the road. They sold an impressive array of 'dependable underwear' including Directoire knickers (bloomers) and high class corsets [LSA]. Joseph was the key to unlocking the history of this family.



The siblings were the children of **George Dales**, a draper, unsurprisingly, and his wife **Mary Ann Cummins** who had both died before the sisters moved to Settle. George Dales was Louth born and bred being the youngest son of Louth builder **William Dales** and his wife **Elizabeth Chapman**. George's older brother, **John Chapman Dales** carried on the building business in Louth. In 1905 bricklayer **George William Martin** slipped on a ladder whilst going up it to repair a roof. Martin fractured his hip to the extent he would be lame for life. John was taken to court for unsafe practice when the most primitive health and safety laws were in place. He was lucky as the judge decided that the ladder should count as part of the scaffolding and the chimney stack should be included in the measurements of the house and therefore, thanks to this technicality, John was let off [1]. John married **Jane Hoyles**, a grocer's daughter but she died at the birth of their second child, **Jane Dales**. Like many others we have discovered, John spent the rest of his life living with Jane's sister, **Elizabeth Hoyles**, who worked as his housekeeper. It was illegal to marry your dead wife's sister until 1907.

LOUTH COMPENSATION CASE. TECHNICAL POINTS AT GRIMSBY.

His Honour held that a ladder, used for standing on, was scaffolding, and that the chimney-stack must be included in the measurement. Mr Vest, therefore, lost his case, but was compli-

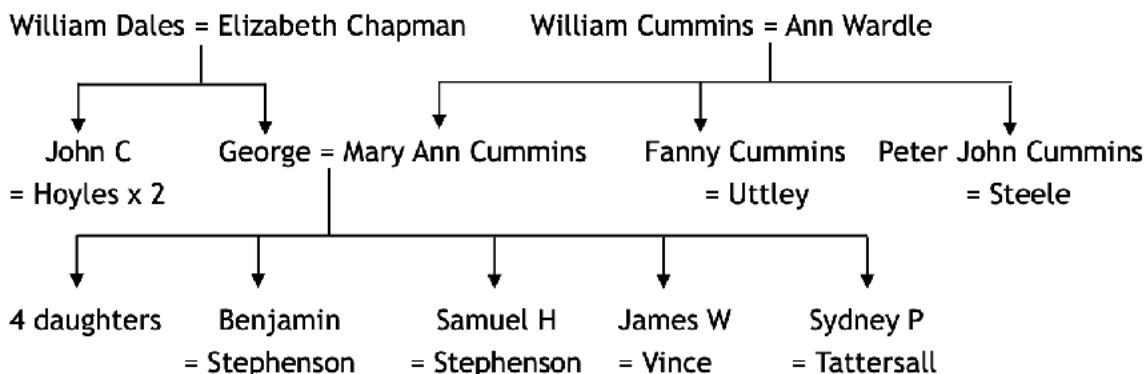
Meanwhile, George's wife, Mary Ann Cummins, was born in Bury Lancashire, the eldest child of **William Cummins**, a 'hosier and lacemaker' and his wife **Anne Wardle**. In 1841 William was subjected to 'extensive pilfering' from an employee 'Catharine Gargon, an Irish woman'. Anti-Irish bigotry was rife in those days. 'Having suspicions on the prisoner, he was determined to keep a strict watch on her, and accordingly, on Friday, when she came into the shop, stationed himself in the parlour, from which he was able to look into the shop through a small window'. [2] William saw her steal two pairs of stockings. She was taken into custody

Bury, as usual, and then missed several articles. Having his suspicions on the prisoner, he was determined to keep a strict watch upon her, and accordingly, on Friday, when she came to the shop, stationed himself in the parlour, from which place he was able to look into the shop through a small window. The servant was in the

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and many other items from William's shop were found in her home and in the pawn shop. She was committed for trial but it's not clear what happened then.

The Dales family



William died in March 1845, aged just 32, followed a month later by William and Anne's youngest son, **William Joachim Cummins**, aged just 1. Perhaps they shared an infectious disease? Poor widow Anne could have resorted to claiming Parish relief but, instead, used her experience to run a millinery business with her young daughters. It appears she moved to Hull with her daughters for a while before returning to Bury. Her daughter **Fanny Cummins** married **John Uttley** in Hull in 1866. John was the son of **Abraham Uttley** of Hebden Bridge who was a successful ironmonger and agricultural implement maker[3]. Abraham ran his businesses in both Manchester and Hebden Bridge with his four sons. John and Fanny and their children lived next door to Abraham in Hebden Bridge and lived a comfortable life, so much so they could afford a large memorial stone when they died. The stone remembers them, their daughter and husband and a grandson who was only a few weeks old [ph1].



John Uttley of Hollins Crescent born February 28 1848, died November 23 1892. Also of Fanny beloved wife of the above born November 22 1843, died October 28, 1900. Also of John Uttley, son of Sydney Barber and Mary King, grandson of the above born July 22 1913, died August 14, 1913. Also Mary, wife of Sydney B King who died Feb 22 1950 aged 72 years, also of the above Sydney B King who died Dec 16 1961, aged 85 years.

William and Anne's son, **Peter John Cummins** had quite a different life. For three years, from the age of 18, he served with the Scottish Fusiliers Guards from 1859. His Regiment had just returned from the Crimean Wars and, during Peter John's service, worked in garrisons across Europe. Helpfully, Peter John's service record indicated he *'intends to reside in Hull'*, presumably with or near his mother and sisters. Once in Hull, he worked as a Post Office clerk and, in 1864, aged 23, married **Mary Jane Steele**, the daughter of an oil manufacturer. Experiences in the army can do terrible things to the mental health of

Intends to reside at Hull

524 Peter John Cummins

ENLISTED for the 4th Regiment of Foot Guards on the 25th July 1859
 ATTESTED for the said Regiment at Manchester
 On 27th July 1859 at the Age of *Eighteen* Years and *4* Months.

Regiment	Promotions, Reductions, Casualties, &c.	Rank	Period of Service in each Rank		Amount of Service	
			From	To	Years	Days
<i>4th Foot Guards</i>		<i>Private</i>	<i>27th July 1859</i>	<i>17th June '62</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>326</i>
<i>Discharged by Surgeon 1862, at the age of 20 1/2 Years, making a total Service of</i>						<i>2 326</i>

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soldiers and it's possible this was one reason that the marriage didn't work. Mary Jane lived with her parents and two children and Peter John lived back with his mum in Bury, working as a clerk at the ironworks until she died. Then he moved to Louth and worked as a bookkeeper to a steam engine manufacturer.

This left William and Anne's daughter Mary Ann who was the last to marry, aged 30, in 1869. Her husband, George Dales, was five years her junior and they had the four daughters and five sons in the next 14 years. They married in Hull but went back to live in the Market Place in Louth. Mary Ann's millinery skills will have been useful in the business, when maternal duties allowed, which was 'important to ladies'!^[4] Just like his father-in-law, George had to go to court when an employee, **Lydia Goulding**, stole goods to the value of £10 18s. For her sins Lydia was sentenced to six months in prison with hard labour ^[5].

George died in 1891, aged 47 and Mary Ann followed in 1899, aged 60. They were both buried in Louth cemetery and then, during the early 1900s the sisters came to Settle. What happened to George and Mary Ann's sons?

Two sons, **Benjamin Dales** and **Samuel Heber Dales** married unrelated women, both called **Annie Stephenson**, daughters of a **William Stephenson**. Benjamin's Annie's father was, according to marriage documentation, a 'Commissioner of Railways' but was never with Annie and her four daughters at the time of census returns. The witnesses to their wedding were **Mildred Ethel Stephenson**, Annie's sister and **Horace Webster Fox**. Poor old Mildred was left a widow and single mother very soon after marriage as her husband, **John Burton Freeman**, was killed in WW1. Horace Webster Fox, a draper and milliner married Annie's sister **Mary Jane Stephenson**. Unfortunately, in 1926, Horace, aged 49 'had the misfortune to swallow his false teeth'^[6]. He was carried to Hull infirmary 'on the hand ambulance' (a stretcher) and the dental plate was speedily removed. It may or may not be related but Horace died later that year. All four sisters, including **Ada Alice Stephenson** who remained a spinster, lived together again at the time of the 1939 register.

Meanwhile Samuel Heber Dales began working life as a draper in Sheffield but soon found another post as a cashier at a restaurant. The restaurant owner was William Stephenson who owned several restaurants and Samuel married his daughter Annie. This William left a generous estate worth over £1million at today's value when he died in 1929, including a legacy for Samuel and his wife^[7]. Very nice!

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SPECIAL VALUE IN
Flannels, Fiancelettes, Cretonnes, Blankets, Calicoes, Sheets, Quilts, Shirtings, Sheeting.
COMPANION RESPECTFULLY INVITED.
George Dales,
MARKET HALL ENTRANCE,
3, MARKET PLACE,
LOUTH.

Preston, Esq., and Jas. Robson, Esq.—Lydia Goulding was charged on remand with stealing from her master, Mr. **George Dales**, Market-place, goods to the value of £10 18s. From the evidence of Mr. **Dales**, it appears that the accused had been in Mr. **Dales**' service about a month, during which period she had contrived to steal from the shop drapery goods to the amount referred to. She pleaded guilty to the charge, and was sentenced to six months' imprisonment with hard labour.—Henry

Horace Fox (49), a milliner, of Prospect-st., Hull had the misfortune to swallow his false teeth early this morning. Two policemen carried Mr. **Fox** to the Infirmary on the hand ambulance and the dental plate was speedily removed by the doctor.

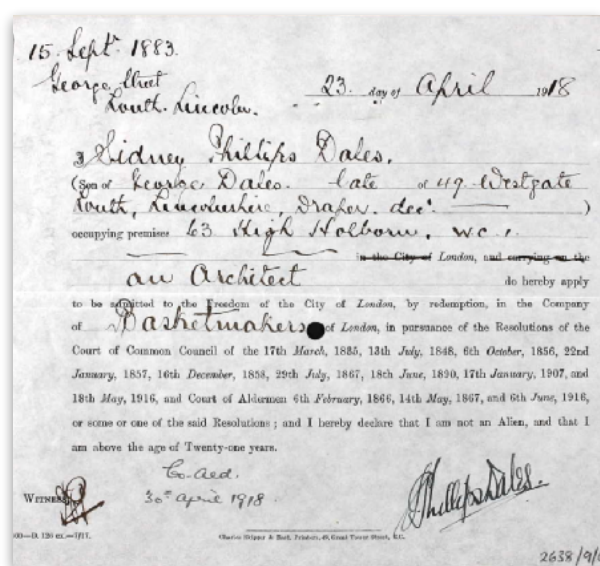
£34,000 SHEFFIELD WILL.
Restaurant Proprietor Leaves £300 to Victoria Hall.
Probate of the will of Mr. William Stephenson, late of Victoria Road, Sheffield, managing director of William Stephenson (Sheffield), Limited, restaurant proprietors, Castle Street, was granted yesterday to the executors, Messrs. **Samuel Heber Dales**, Arthur Priestley (sons-in-law), and William Silvester, the gross estate being sworn at £34,730.

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George and Mary Ann's son, **William Cummins Dales**, became a furniture salesman in Scalby, North Yorkshire after marrying **Amy Luck**.

Somehow, in 1895, widowed Mary Ann found the money to send her youngest two sons to Louth Grammar School. Joseph Wardle Dales used his education to become a chemist's assistant in London before joining his sisters in Settle. During the war he served as a private in the Lincolnshire Regiment and then in the Labour Corps. The Labour Corps did preparatory work for the main war effort, such as building bridges and roads, and was often staffed by men who didn't have the mental or physical ability to be in other regiments. In 1942, aged 60, after all his sisters had died, Joseph married 51 year old **Alice Vince** at the Methodist Church in Settle. She was from Renfrewshire, west of Glasgow, and they moved to live in Girvan on the Ayrshire coast of Scotland. It obviously suited Joseph as he lived to the age of 75, quite a record for this family, so far.

Youngest son **Sydney Phillips Dales** became an architect and surveyor. During the war he was a conscientious objector which must have caused some awkward family discussions. His war records tell us that, instead, he worked as a stocktaker at the Romford Union workhouse. There is no other information about it and it didn't seem to do him any harm as, in 1918 he was awarded the Freedom of the City of London. Sydney had a property in High Holborn and was nominated by the Company of Basketweavers. The following year, in Holborn, he married **Muriel Emily Tattersall** who was an unlucky woman. Her father, **Alfred Firth Tattersall**, a commercial traveller, deserted the family when she was just a child and her brother, **Frank Alfred Tattersall** was killed in WW1 at the Somme. Sydney died in 1971 aged 88 and also left an estate worth over £1 million.



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. 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 settlresearch@gmail.com. Latest news and events are on the Facebook page 'Settle Graveyard Project'.

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