

## The Battersbys of Long Preston, farmers

Battersby is an old Long Preston name with generations of farmers in and around the village. There are at least 35 of the family in Long Preston graveyard, the earliest under the name 'Battersbie'. **Robert Battersby** married **Mary Roberts** in 1773 and they had four children that we know about although records for son Robert Battersby stop after his birth. Oh dear.

Their eldest daughter, **Ann Battersby** married **William Paxton**, a Long Preston agricultural labourer, and they had at least four children. At the time of the 1841 census William and Ann lived with their son **Robert Paxton** who remained single and also worked as an agricultural labourer in the village. They also had 'Margaret Ancock' and of her two children with them. Their daughter **Margaret Paxton** had married **Ambrose Hancock** of Long Preston in 1822. However, he died some time after the birth of their daughter **Ann Hancock**. Margaret's son, **William Hancock**, was born in 1839 and baptised as an illegitimate son after Ambrose had died. He was last seen in a pauper's lodging house in Settle, aged 33 and working as a mason's labourer. Margaret predeceased both her parents, dying in 1850, aged 50.

Margaret and Ambrose's daughter Ann Hancock fared much better than her brother as she married **Jacob Carradice**, a tailor, in 1849. Jacob had a fascinating childhood! He was one of at least four illegitimate children of **Ann Carradice** from Swinden, south of Hellifield. Ann lived with the father of the children, **Thomas Robinson**. This was a most unusual arrangement. It's possible they were unable to marry because there were 'connections' between their families. Ann's mother was **Ann Calverley**. Thomas's first wife had been **Margaret Calverley**, thought to be Ann Calverley's sister and so Ann Carradice would have been marrying her uncle, even though he was no blood relation. Victorian Society definitely didn't approve of this! Incredibly, Thomas and Ann's first child, **Thomas Carradice**, was born in Wakefield prison suggesting Ann may have been imprisoned for this 'crime'.

13 <sup>th</sup>	Thomas				
1848	Son of	Ann	Carradice	Prison	Quarter
No. 2348.					

Over time, the surname 'Carradice' evolved to 'Cardus'. Jacob's brother, **Dan Cardus**, was one of at least ten 'evil disposed persons' from Long Preston who were taken to court as they 'unlawfully and riotously and routously did assemble with force and arms to disturb the peace of our fair lady the Queen and made an assault upon John Baldwin, beating, wounding and ill treating him' on 25th September 1852.

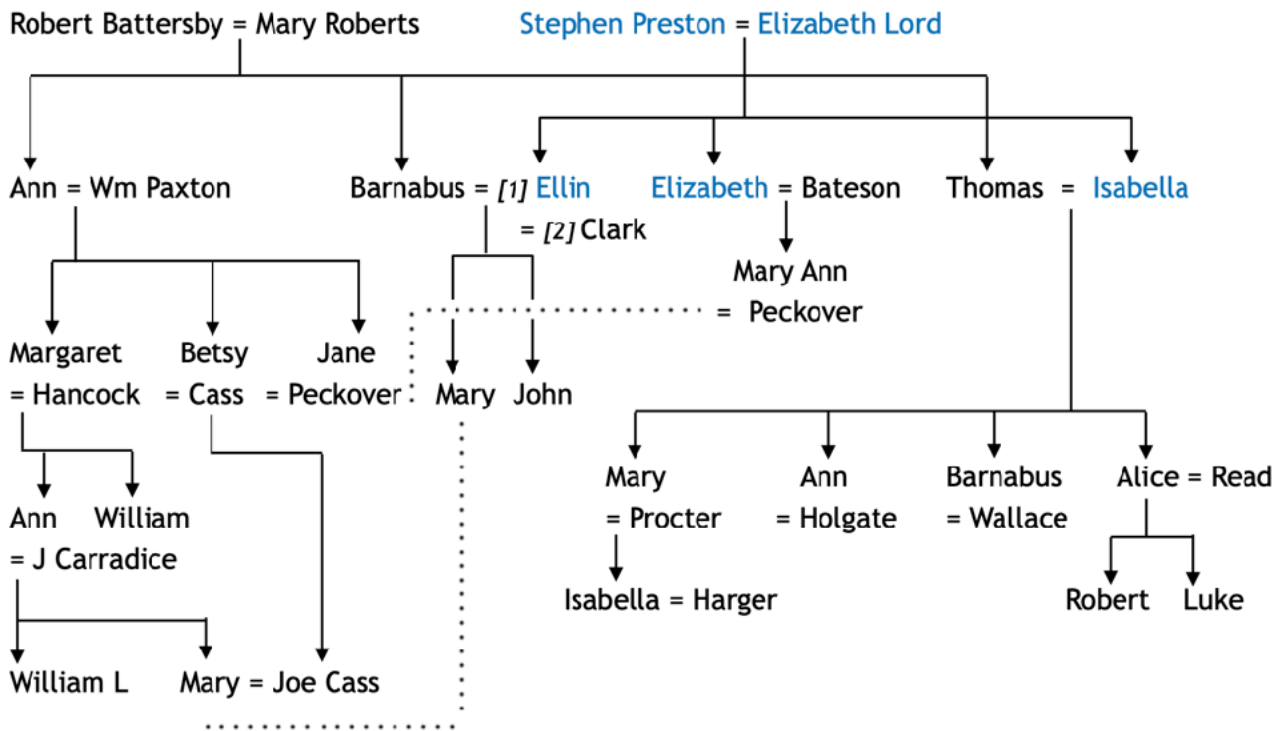
'Routously' means disorderly or noisily. The word was often used as a legal

*ANN that Richard Handcock, Henry Wolfenden, William Nelson, Daniel Cardus, John Read, Thomas Hady, Henry Brigg, William Hargreaves, James Hair, and Christopher Meek, together with divers other evil disposed persons to the number of ten*

expression relating to the formation of illegal assemblies. The 'evil disposed persons' included several local farmers and labourers including **John Read** who we shall meet again soon. They managed to avoid incarceration thanks to a legal technicality. Victim **John Baldwin** may have been a Halifax mill owner, in which case the riot could have been over plans for industrialisation. Dan Cardus seems to have emigrated to Australia under the surname Robinson afterwards.

Jacob Carradice was a thoroughly good man and made up for his brother's indiscretions by spending his spare time as a Wesleyan Minister, preaching on the local circuit. He was an active member of the Temperance Society and President of the Mechanics Institute which provided education for working men and, later, women. Jacob and Ann ran the Toll House at Chatburn at

## The Battersbys



the time of the 1871 census, collecting fees from travellers using the turnpike road. They adopted **Annie Eliza Coates**, the illegitimate daughter of **Susannah Coates**, a life-long domestic servant from Waddington, near Clitheroe. Annie Eliza looked after widower Jacob in his dotage until his eventual death, aged 86. Jacob and Ann are buried in Long Preston graveyard, in prime position behind the East window and the altar of the church, with son **Thomas Carradice** who died of scarletina (scarlet fever), aged 3, **Henry Carradice** who died of kidney disease, aged 5 and **Thomas Robinson Carradice** who died of mitral (heart) disease aged 29. Annie Eliza joined them when she died, aged 94!

*In Memory of Thomas, son of Jacob and Ann Carradice of Hellifield who died March 1, 1853 aged 3 years. Also of Henry their son who died March 2 1869 aged 5 years. Also of Thomas Robinson Carradice, son of the above, who died April 25 1884 aged 29 years. Also of the above Ann Carradice who died January 26 1905 aged 79 years and of the above Jacob Carradice who died September 9, 1914 aged 86 years. "At rest". Also adopted daughter Annie Eliza Coates who died February 8th 1960 aged 94 years.*



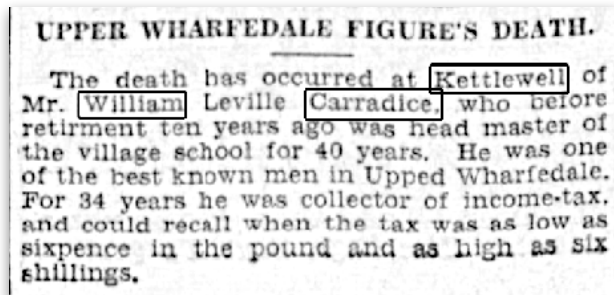
Jacob and Ann's daughter, **Elizabeth Carradice**, married furniture remover **Jeremiah Green** and they had 16, yes 16 children and, incredibly, just two died in infancy. Jacob and Ann's daughter **Mary Carradice** married a commercial traveller, **Joe Cass**, from Manchester and they had two sets of twins born within 18 months of each other in Manchester. Blimey! The first set of twins were **Mary Cass** and **John Battersby Cass** closely followed by **Joseph Cass** and **Annie Cass**. The children all lived with Joe and Mary until they died. After that, Annie and Mary ran a boarding house together. John Battersby Cass worked as a construction labourer. Joseph Cass, an insurance clerk, married **Amelia Johnson**, a fireman's daughter, when they were both in their late thirties but didn't have any children. Joe and Mary died in Manchester but were brought back to Long Preston for burial. We'll meet Joe and Mary again later.



*In Loving Remembrance of Joe Cass died Nov 3rd 1907 aged 59 years also Mary his beloved wife died Oct 14th 1935 aged 78 years "Resting", A192*

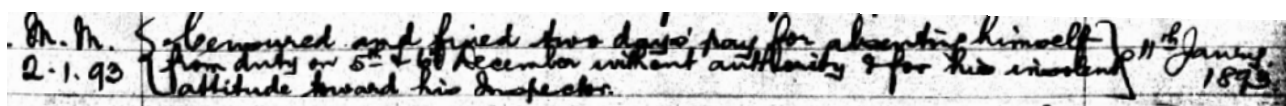
## Settle Graveyard Project

Jacob and Ann's son, **William Levell Carradice**, became a schoolmaster and found a post in Kettlewell where he married **Elizabeth Wiseman**. They had one daughter, **Margaret Ann Carradice** who died, aged 19. When William died in 1933, aged 72 a newspaper report explained he was the headmaster of the village school for 40 years — quite some achievement![1]. He was also an income tax collector for 34 years 'and could recall when the tax was as low as sixpence in the pound and as high as six shillings'.



**UPPER WHARFEDALE FIGURE'S DEATH.**  
The death has occurred at Kettlewell of Mr. William Levell Carradice, who before retirement ten years ago was head master of the village school for 40 years. He was one of the best known men in Upped Wharfedale. For 34 years he was collector of income-tax, and could recall when the tax was as low as sixpence in the pound and as high as six shillings.

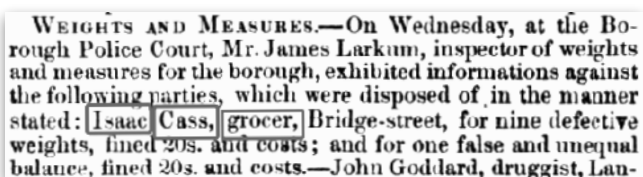
Jacob and Ann's son **John Alfred Carradice** was also a schoolmaster but didn't quite have the same record of success. By the age of 23, in 1891, he had emigrated to Australia and worked in several posts in Victoria, north of Melbourne, including Bungabee, Hanging Rock Wharf, Pretty Gully and White Swamp. His teaching records indicate he failed many of his assessments and exams and was disciplined on several occasions. For example, in 1893, he was 'censured and fined two days' pay for absenting himself from duty on 5th and 6th December without authority and for his insolent attitude toward his inspector.' However teachers were in great demand at that stage so he was never unemployed.



2-1-93 Censured and fined two days' pay for absenting himself from duty on 5th & 6th December without authority & for his insolent attitude toward his inspector. J. A. Carradice 1893

Whilst in White Swamp John Alfred married a native, **Margaret Smith Watson** and they had two daughters, **Vashti Sybil Carradice** and **Rachel Myra Uloola Carradice**.

Going back a couple of generations to William Paxton and Ann Battersby, their daughter **Betsy Paxton** found employment as a servant in Stalybridge, Cheshire. There, she met and married **Isaac Cass** in 1841 — yes, they were the parents of Joe Cass, above, who married his niece, Mary Carradice. Isaac was a grocer who was born in Stalybridge, Cheshire. Isaac and Betsy continued the grocery business in Manchester and they had four children, including Joe Cass. In 1846 Isaac was caught by the Inspector of weights and measures for the borough for having 'nine defective weights, fined 20s and costs; and for one false and unequal balance, fined 20s and costs' [2]. Perhaps it was not a surprise that, in 1862, Isaac's finances were taken into administration. In subsequent census returns Isaac worked as a tallow chandler, making and selling candles.



**WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.—**On Wednesday, at the Borough Police Court, Mr. James Larkum, inspector of weights and measures for the borough, exhibited informations against the following parties, which were disposed of in the manner stated: Isaac Cass, grocer, Bridge-street, for nine defective weights, fined 20s. and costs; and for one false and unequal balance, fined 20s. and costs.—John Goddard, druggist, Lau-

William Paxton and Ann Battersby's daughter **Jane Paxton** married **Stephen Peckover** and they farmed 117 acres, living in the village of Long Preston. Either Betsy or Jane Paxton had a son, before marriage, called **William Paxton** who was brought up by his Paxton grandparents and became a labourer in the town.

Going back a few generations to Robert Battersby and Mary Roberts, their son, **Thomas Battersby** married **Isabella Preston**, a farmer's daughter from Mearbeck between Settle and Long Preston. In the small world of Long Preston, Isabella's sister **Elizabeth Preston** married a chap called **John Bateson**. John and Elizabeth Bateson's daughter **Mary Ann Bateson** married twice. Her first

## Settle Graveyard Project

husband was **John Peckover**, the brother of Stephen Peckover who married Jane Paxton. So, Jane had married her first cousin, once removed. The Peckover name was variously spelt Pickhover, Pechover, Pechaver. Anyway, Thomas and Isabella Battersby had nine children and farmed in Long Preston. After Isabella died, Thomas spent his last years with daughter **Mary (Battersby) Procter**. The family's lives are commemorated with a fine gravestone just inside the gate of Long Preston graveyard.

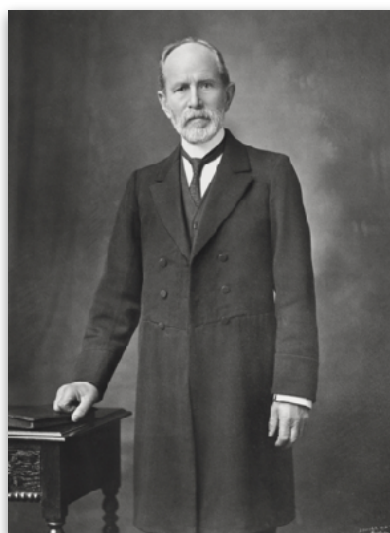
*In memory of the late Thomas Battersby of Long Preston who died at Lainger House, September 4, 1868, aged 80 years. Also Isabella, the wife of the above who died at Long Preston February 13 1841, aged 50 years. Also Robert, son of the above, who died at Settle, February 23 1860, aged 45 years. Also Thomas their son who died March 13 1870, aged 48 years.*



Thomas and Isabella's daughter Mary Battersby married Robert Procter whose family farmed at the 17th century Lainger House between Malham and Hetton [ph1] and renovated it during the mid-19th century. Their daughter, **Isabella Procter**, married Settle's **John Vincent Harger**, a cabinet maker of the successful Harger empire and a life-long Methodist preacher. He was 'one of the most respected townsmen', 'the most religious man in Settle' and 'would have died a rich man but for his unflinching kindness of heart and generosity'[ph2].



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



Thomas and Isabella's daughter **Ann Battersby** married **John Holgate** who was also from Long Preston. A few years after their marriage, during the 1850s they took their only daughter, Isabella Holgate to the heart of Liverpool to set up business as one of the many Yorkshire cowkeepers in the expanding city [SC, ph3]. The port was, at that time, the largest in the world and the population of Liverpool rocketed, along with the demand for fresh food and milk (and crime and disease).

A CAPITAL LIVING FOR A FAMILY FOR £350,  
NEAR LIVERPOOL.

TO BE SOLD  
A  
MILK HOUSE,

With 9 Cows, Pony, Shandry, Cans, and all complete, with a connection established 12 years, in the best part of the north end of Liverpool.

Apply, without delay, for full particulars to Mr JOHN BATTERSBY, Duke Street, Settle; or to Mr BROWNE-CAVE,



### Settle Graveyard Project

The cow(s) were in a stall or yard at the back of the shop with a hay store in a shed or cellar in this painting reached by the hatch below the window. John and Ann would have lived above the shop. Many cow keepers made a very good living out of their business and, indeed, at the time of the 1851 census they had two servants, including Ann's younger brother **Barnabas Battersby** and, at the time of the 1861 census, a 'manservant' **John Read** from Hellifield — we'll meet him again shortly. Unfortunately, Ann succumbed to one of the diseases rife in the city in 1865 when she was 41 and their only child, **Isabella Holgate**, was nine. John and Isabella returned to Long Preston when John reverted to general farming and Isabella assisted in a millinery business in Settle until she married.

So, Ann's youngest brother, Barnabas Battersby [ph4] lived with them in 1861. Barnabas was the second son of that name as the first died in infancy five years previously. Perhaps inspired by the comings and goings at Liverpool Port, Barnabas decided to emigrate to Papakaio on the south island of New Zealand where he farmed. At the age of 35 he married 31 year old widow **Minnie (Pope) Wallace** [ph4], originally from Ely, Cambridgeshire and they had ten children over the next 20 years - well done Minnie! They had their photo taken outside their home with seven of their children in the early



1890s [ph4]. Barnabas died in 1904, aged 70 followed by Minnie in 1913, apparently after a long illness. An indication of their success is given on their memorial stone, inside a large fenced plot which also remembers one of their daughters, **Mary Louisa Battersby**, who died, aged 25.

*In loving memory of Barnabas Battersby who died at his residence Matapuna Enfield 9th October 1904 aged 71 years. In loving memory of Mary Louisa Battersby who died 4th June 1896 aged 25 years. Also Minnie wife of the above who died at Oamaru 29th May 1913 aged 73 years. Affliction sore long time it bore, physicians art in vain, till God above in tender love released her of her pain.*



Meanwhile Thomas and Isabella's youngest daughter, **Alice Battersby**, gave birth to a couple of illegitimate sons, **Robert** and **Luke Battersby**. Alice later married **John Read**, the labourer from Hellifield, who had lived with Alice (Battersby) Holgate in 1861. John was one of the men involved in the riot with Dan Cardus, above. Alice's delightful choice of husband was 'an old offender' frequently appearing in court for drunkenness, this one, ending in being discovered lying

## Settle Graveyard Project

in some water by PC Spenceley, was in 1886 [ph5]. A mother with illegitimate children came down quite low in the marital pecking order. Unsurprisingly John ended his days in the workhouse. Incredibly he reached the age of 65 before he died in 1901 and was buried in an unmarked grave.

—John Read, of Long Preston, cattle drover, was summoned for being drunk at Long Preston, on the 8th inst. P.C. Jessop stated that the prisoner was very drunk in the street, and shouted "My name is Mr Powell, M.P. for Wigan." Defendant subsequently went in a trap to Wigglesworth, and was found there by P.C. Spenceley lying in some water by the side of the road, and was conveyed back to Long Preston. Defendant, who is an old offender, was fined 10s and 8s. 6d. costs.

Alice's son Robert Battersby [ph6], who definitely resembled his cousin Barnabas, was 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. Robert was often seen driving Mr Morrison, staff and visitors in a four-seat horse drawn landau to and from Settle Station. Walter Morrison had a permanently reserved room at the Golden Lion Inn in Settle for planned or unexpected overnight stays. A Settle resident remembered that Robert Battersby regularly arrived in the early morning to take him up the six-mile climb home to Malham Tarn Hall [CH]. As Mr Morrison became more frail, just before the First World War, a car was purchased and it was Robert who became the chauffeur. Although he was in his 60s at the time, Robert was sent for driving lessons and, after three circuits round Settle, was pronounced fit to drive. It was said that when he arrived back at the yard with the new car he shouted 'Whooa, lass, whooa.' But the car did not stop. It crashed into a gatepost and smashed one of the lamps!



Several of Walter Morrison's staff worked for him for decades.

Walter was known to be a considerate employer and rewarded his loyal staff with generous bequests when he died in 1921. Robert received £1000, worth over £50,000 at today's value. Robert retired to live at 1 Ribble Terrace in Settle and died aged 78. He was buried in Long Preston graveyard with his mum, Alice Read.



As a child, I remember, in the pre-motoring age, that Mr. Morrison often would appear unexpectedly at Settle in the late evening. That contingency was always provided for, as a room was permanently reserved for him at the Golden Lion Hotel. Early the next morning, his groom (the late Robert Battersby), would arrive with spare horses for the long six-mile uphill climb to his beloved mountain home—the home where Kingsley wrote the first chapter of "The Water Babies," and the home, often enriched by others, famous in the literary sphere. Also I recall how Mr. Morrison would always call at the local tobacconist (the late Mr. C. F. Armistead) to purchase his favourite tobacco before returning to Town. When Mr. Morrison was very old and could no longer enjoy his usual mixture, it was skilfully "lightened" (unknown to the client) so that he could smoke in comfort!

*In Loving Memory of Alice Read died February 21st 1909 aged 79 years. Also of Robert Battersby formerly of Malham Tarn died 20th September 1928 aged 78 years*

Incredibly, Robert Battersby left an estate of over £15,000 making him another very wealthy man [3]. He had no family of his own so his chosen beneficiaries included Church Missionary Societies in Africa and India, Long Preston Parish Church, several Battersby nieces and nephews, a few ex-colleagues at Malham Tarn Hall *'and the residue to my brother Luke Battersby, or should he be dead, then for his children'*. His brother, **Luke Battersby**, initially worked as a servant at the Plough Inn in Wigglesworth and then at the Boar's Head in Long Preston. In 1876 Luke found a hat, overcoat and stick in the River Ribble belonging to 45 year old **Thomas Guy**, a farmer who had been missing since the day before. Luke raised the alarm, *'a raft was nailed together'* and divers were sent for [ph5]. Unfortunately, a day later, Thomas' body was found in the river near Todmanhaw. The

**RETIRED COACHMAN'S FORTUNE.**  
Mr. Robert Battersby, of Settle, retired coachman, who died on September 20th last, has left property of the value of £15,759 16s. 7d., with net personalty

## Settle Graveyard Project

Coroner gave a verdict of 'Found Drowned', one of many tragic deaths in this part of the river. A few years later, Luke emigrated to Saskatchewan in Canada, marrying and having at least eight children. On a return visit in 1929 he was not impressed that England had 'turned into a pleasure resort' saying that in Canada, 'hard work is indispensable.' It obviously suited Luke as he lived until the age of 92!

"When I went to Canada in 1832," he said, "I had a homestead of 150 acres, but to-day I have 800 acres of arable land, with 200 head of cattle, horses, and sheep. Hard work is indispensable."

Meanwhile, going back a few generations, Robert Battersby and Mary Roberts' son, **Barnabas Battersby**, was a farmer, regarded as a good man as a Wesleyan lay preacher. In 1816 he married **Ellin Preston** the sister of Isabella Preston so the two sisters married the two Battersby brothers. They farmed at Halton West/West Halton, south of Long Preston and had four children, none of whom married. Ellin died in 1834, aged 42 when the youngest child, **Elizabeth Battersby**, was just six. Barnabas managed by himself until 1846 when he married **Betsy Clark**, one of six daughters of **Henry Clark** and his wife **Bridget Armistead**. Their only son, **Henry Clark**, had died an infant in 1808. In 1843, at the time of Henry's death, Betsy was the only unmarried daughter and was left the family property of Millgate House on the main road out of Rathmell towards Wigglesworth. Upon their marriage Barnabas moved into Millgate House where they remained until Barnabas died, in 1861, aged 76. Barnabas left an estate of £2,000 to his only surviving son **John Battersby**, worth millions at today's value. Barnabas, both wives and all four children are buried in Long Preston graveyard with a finely engraved table-top stone. Betsy was referred to as the 'relict' of Barnabas, an unfortunate term meaning widow.

*In Memory of Ellin Battersby wife of Barnabas Battersby who died in the year of our Lord August 11th 1834 aged 42, of Elizabeth Battersby who died Sepr 12th 1849 aged 21 years, of Henry Battersby who died June 14th 1851 aged 27 years, of Barnabas Battersby who died at Rathmell March 1st 1861 aged 76 years, of John Battersby Postmaster of Settle who died Dec 5th 1878 aged 60 years, of Mary Battersby of Long Preston, who died December 23rd 1883 aged 52 years, of Betsy Battersby of Mill Gate House Rathmell relict of Barnabas Battersby, who died Sepr 9th 1886 aged 86 years.*



When Barnabas moved to Millgate House, his children took over the farm at Halton West. Son **Henry Battersby** and daughter **Elizabeth Battersby** had died in their twenties, predeceasing Barnabas. Barnabas' inheritance gave son John and daughter Mary Battersby an opportunity to give up farming and set up business as a 'News Agent and publisher' in Duke Street in Settle taking over from **John Wildman**. John had a lucrative contract to publish the monthly Settle Chronicle [SC] from November 1858 until its demise in 1866. It cost 'three halfpence'. John also took over the Post Office from John Wildman when he died in 1862.

Printed for and Published by JOHN BATTERSBY, News Agent, on the First of every Month, at his residence, Duke Street, Settle.

Obviously, these would both have been in John's

name, but it would have been a full time job for both him and Mary. In that same year, John became an Overseer of the Poor, helping to allocate funds for the poor and needy. In a reminiscence, someone asked, 'Can you see old John Battersby, the post master as he swings his heavy walking-stick when taking his daily constitutional?' [CH]

Can you see old John Battersby, the post-master, as he swings his heavy walking-stick, when taking his daily constitutional? or

John was one of the executors of his uncle Thomas Battersby's will. Thomas died in 1868 leaving a healthy estate from his farm at Hetton. Despite this, John died in 1878, aged 60, with just £300 to

## Settle Graveyard Project

his name which he left to his sister, Mary. This was still a reasonable amount, but where did all Barnabas' inheritance go? After John's death sister Mary Battersby moved back to Long Preston with their servant/companion of 20 years, Mary Carradice, who had been working for the Battersbys since the age of 14. We have already met Mary Carradice, the daughter of Jacob Carradice and Ann Hancock so Mary Battersby and Mary Carradice were third cousins twice removed. Mary Battersby died five years later and left her estate of £300 to Mary Carradice. Lucky Mary! No wonder her uncle Joe Cass was pleased to marry her!



*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 – Leeds Mercury, 2 – Manchester Examiner, 3 – Yorkshire Post*

*ph1 – photo credited to [trylestoneproject.com](http://trylestoneproject.com), ph2 – thanks to descendant Allan Gould, ph3 – painting by George Scharf at the British Museum, ph4 – credited to family descendants via [Ancestry.co.uk](http://Ancestry.co.uk), username Kristyndoeshair, ph5 – Craven Herald & Wensleydale Standard, with thanks to the Long Preston Heritage Group, ph6 – with thanks to the Malhamdale Local History Group*

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*Census return, baptism and criminal record via [ancestry.co.uk](http://ancestry.co.uk), courtesy of The National Archives.*

*Some of the material in this account has been published by Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust in the book 'Meandering down the Ribble, Born and Bred in the Long Preston Floodplain' who have given permission for it to be included in this account*