

The Elsworths, farmers and butchers

Christopher Elsworth, a farmer from Thornton-in-Lonsdale married **Bridget Waine** in 1754. They had at least five children while they were living in Thornton-in-Craven, Kirby Malham and Hellifield and finally settling at Kendal House in Malhamdale [ph1]. Their son, **John Elsworth**, had at least ten children with his wife, **Mary Roberts**, of Gisburn. Five of these were born at Kendal House, inherited from John's father and the rest in Halton West near Long Preston. Their son, **Christopher Elsworth**, died aged 10 and was buried in Long Preston graveyard joining several other 'Elsworths' dating back to the 17th century. By the time of the 1841 census, John, Mary and their unmarried children lived at Little Stainton near Gargrave[ph2]. As well as son Christopher, several other children had shorter than expected lives including **Margaret**, aged six, **Richard**, aged 28, **Bridget** aged 34, **James**, aged 45 and **William**, aged 55.



Their huge memorial stone, an indication of their wealth and status, remembers John and Mary, and three of their sons but not their daughters. 19th century values!



In memory of John Elsworth of Little Statinton who departed this life on the 27th day of May 1846, aged 82 years. Also of Mary, relict of the above said John Elsworth, who died August 11th 1849 in the 81st year of her age. Also of William, their son who died July 11th, 1849 in the 55th year of his age. Also of James their son who died August 12th 1849 in the 45th year of his age. Also of John Elsworth who died October 14th 1863 in the 71st year of his age. Also of Mary his wife who died October 17th 1873 in the 82nd year of her age.

The eagle-eyed reader will have spotted that mum Mary and unmarried sons William and James died within a month of each other and Mary and James were buried on the same day. Mary and James both died of Erysipelas, a form of cellulitis and James died of gastritis. Both sound incredibly painful.

The memorial stone also commemorated the life of son **John Elsworth** and his wife **Mary Cockshott** who were in their mid-thirties when they married. Mary had been brought up at Deepdale Head Farm [ph2] about a mile downstream from Cow Bridge at Wigglesworth with her parents, **William Cockshott** and **Margaret (Foster) Cockshott** and brother **Thomas Cockshott**. William lived to the age of 91 and has an impressive table-top gravestone in Long Preston graveyard. His wife, who died around the time of the birth of a daughter in 1793, also named **Margaret**, didn't get a mention.

William Elsworth No. 1226.	Little Stainton in the district of Gargrave	July 13th	54 years
Ann Clark No. 1227.	Settle	August 10th	31 years
Mary Elsworth No. 1228.	Little Stainton	August 11th	81 years
James Elsworth No. 1229.	Little Stainton	August 12th	45 years



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Erected in Memory of William Cockshott of Deepdale Head who departed this life March 19th 1841 aged 91 years.

Descendants of this colourful family have collated fascinating information and superb photos. When William died, Thomas ^[ph2], 'a tall, gaunt man' and his sister **Mary**, 'small, dainty and sweet tempered', took over Deepdale Head farm with the help of servants including 'a sour old housekeeper,' **Ellen Armistead**, and, later, a niece. Thomas also owned Bend Yate/Yate/Yeat/Gate Farm on the Gisburn Road from Long Preston. Thomas spent Sundays preaching at a makeshift Baptist Chapel in Hellifield, 'holding forth on the perils of carnal lust and punishment by hell fire.' By the time of the 1851 census Thomas, now at Bend Yate was 'occupying 700 acres, employing 2 labourers'. At the age of 63 Thomas married 42 year old **Jane Ann Holgate** whose father **Samuel Holgate** owned Grosvenor Place in Long Preston. Bend Yate has a stone over the back door inscribed, 'T&JC,1835' which descendants think could relate to Thomas and Jane, although their marriage wasn't until 1854. Perhaps it was added retrospectively? Thomas died, aged 72, of prostate cancer and is buried with the only table-top stone gravestone in the Baptist Chapel graveyard. The inscription reflects a man with quite a high opinion of himself!



In memory of Thomas Cockshott of Bend Yate who died Feb 22nd 1863, aged 72 years. 'Mark the perfect man and behold the upright for the end of that man is in peace.' Psm XXXVII.XXXVII. Also Jane Ann, widow of the above who died March 31st 1874, aged 62. 'Her end was peace.'



Thomas left Bend Yate, and farms Old Ing and Bookhill Gill to his Elsworth nieces **Catherine** and **Margaret**, and Foxup Farm to his sister Mary, so there would have been plenty of rental income all round.

The marriage of John Elsworth and Mary Cockshott was appropriate for the children of wealthy families. Descendants have records which explain that Mary Cockshott was 'pretty with long lashes, auburn hair and tiny hands and feet.' She always wore black silk stockings, good enough 'for Queens, Duchesses and Mary Cockshott!' **John Elsworth**, a butcher was, in her eyes, 'the finest horseman, the best dancer, carefree and charming'. Her brother Thomas said, 'He is nowt but a wastrel, he has no brass and never will have.' To try to prevent this relationship, Thomas sent Mary to her room with the sour old housekeeper set to watch her. Supposedly, one moonlit night, Mary 'slipped off her little sandals, ran down the spiral staircase' and out to meet John Elsworth who whisked her away on his blood mare, 'Blossom,' holding her firmly in front of him. Family stories suggest they ran away to Manchester and stayed there to have their family, but the

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wedding was actually by licence in Long Preston, probably to avoid the three week delay for banns. Their two daughters, **Margaret Elsworth** and **Catherine Elsworth** were born at Austwick and their two sons William Cockshott Elsworth and John Elsworth were born in Prestwich, Manchester but all four were baptised back in Long Preston. The two sons died as infants. Mary had a photo taken with her daughters, dressed in mourning clothes so probably after John had died.

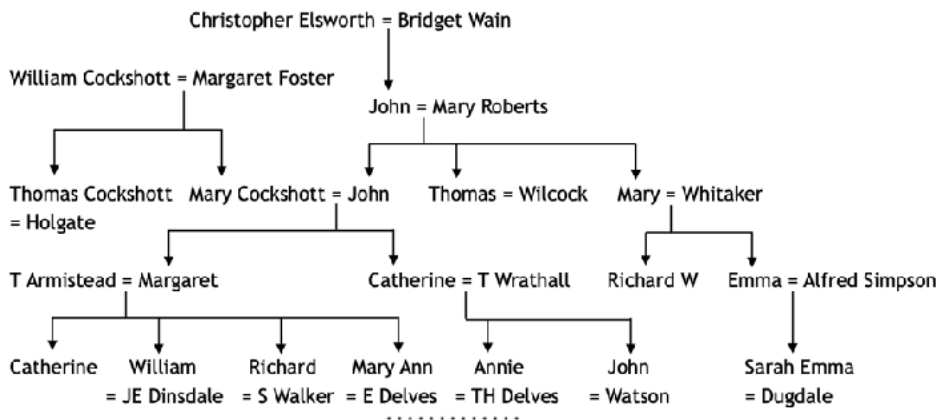


John and Mary (Elsworth) Cockshott inherited Moss Farm, a couple of miles south of Wigglesworth on the way to Bolton-by-Bowland, from an uncle, **James Cockshott**. However, during the 1840s, they retired to 'Elsworth Cottage' near the vicarage in Long Preston.

John died in 1863, aged 71, six months after brother-in-law Thomas Cockshott, apparently delighted he had outlived him.

John and Mary's eldest daughter Margaret Elsworth married **Thomas Armistead** of Armistead Place in Long Preston. They farmed at Field Gate, north of Rathmell, before settling in Inglenook on the Main Street of Long Preston. They had four children, **William, Richard, Mary Ann** and **Catherine Armistead** whose lives were definitely not typical of upper middle class folk in Long Preston.

The Elsworths



Sons William and Richard certainly had a look of confident young men, didn't they?! [ph2] Second son Richard (*right*) became a land surveyor and civil engineer, working for the Bingley Improvement Commissioners and is credited with 'all the important developments of that era.' Later, Richard became an expert witness in arbitration cases. He married Sallie Walker and they had three sons all of whom served in WW1. Richard and Sallie's son **Thomas Elsworth Armistead** [ph2] went missing on the Western Front on 3 May 1917, aged 22 and was later presumed dead. Richard died two years later, aged 64, of pneumonia.



Thomas and Margaret's son, William Armistead, [ph2] stayed in Long Preston but had numerous business interests elsewhere. In census returns William described his occupation as an

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ironmonger with a shop called *'The Grate Armistead'*(!) an auctioneer and a bacon merchant. William used his Liberal politics to direct the Long Preston Parish Council, of which he was the first chair. He used brother Richard to commission reports for the work of the Council. William worked with **Thomas William Procter** to purchase and develop the land for building the Queen's Arcade in the centre of Leeds shopping district which eventually opened in 1889. It was built *'with a strict regard not only to elegance and attractiveness but also to public utility'*[1]. A Civil Trust blue plaque was put up to celebrate this achievement.

its dilapidated buildings. This Arcade is undoubtedly a credit to the town, and it will compare favourably with similar places of public resort in Leeds and other parts of the country. Light and air have been admitted where they had long been urgently required; and old, filthy, and unsightly structures have made way for a combination of business premises which have been designed and erected with a strict regard not only to elegance and attractiveness, but also to public utility. The estate on which this Arcade stands was



William's sister, Catherine was *'an invalid from her early youth'*. At the time of the 1881 census she lived in Birmingham with her cousins **Alfred** and **Emma Simpson** who were hotel proprietors. We'll meet them again soon. During the development of the arcade Catherine had moved to Leeds to run a *'furnishing ironmonger'* business in Briggate. She died in 1887 of an *'acute intestinal obstruction'* after a period of ill health. Descendants of the family recall that they hoped the Arcade would be named *'Catherine's Arcade'* in her memory but, being two years after the Queen's Golden Jubilee, the authorities thought otherwise. William's business partner, Thomas William Procter also died before the work was complete. Whilst being a fantastic legacy, the venture was a financial disaster for William.

In 1891 William went to Bingley to visit his brother Richard. As he was leaving Bingley Station, *'crossing the canal bridge he saw a boy in the water on the point of drowning. No one else being near at the time, without waiting to divest himself of any clothing, Mr Armistead immediately jumped into the water and succeeded in bringing the boy to the bank.'* By then a relation of the boy had arrived and *'set to work to resuscitate him; having partly done so she took him home. The rescuer walked to his brothers in his dripping garments'* [2].

BOY RESCUED FROM DROWNING.—On Monday evening as Mr W. Armistead, of Longreston, was leaving Bingley Station, on his way to his brother's, crossing the canal bridge he saw a boy in the water on the point of drowning. No one else being near at the time, without waiting to divest himself of any clothing, Mr Armistead immediately jumped into the water and succeeded in bringing the boy to the bank. By that time a woman had arrived who knew the rescued youth, and set to work to resuscitate him; having partly done so she took him home. The rescuer walked to his brother's in his dripping garments.

William's father, Thomas Armistead, died, aged 80, in 1902 of *'Senectus'*, being worn out by old age, and probably by recent events too. A silver lining to Thomas' death was that William's finances would have been replenished. Meanwhile, in April 1901, when William was 49, he married 30 year old Jane Elizabeth Dinsdale [ph2], *'attractive and articulate'* at St Leonard's Church in Chapel-Le-Dale. Jane's sister, **Isabella Dinsdale** had married **Tom Kilburn** and, with a bit of help from Jane, they ran the Old Hill Inn at the foot of Ingleborough on the way to Chapel-le-Dale. It's thought that's where William met Jane as, according to descendants, he was *'an overweight, over-drinking cad'* by then. William and Jane had three children in the next four years. Perhaps William had one too many drinks as in 1905, aged 53, he died of liver failure and cardiac



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disease. Some descendants of the family remain suspicious about William's death, suggesting it could have been self-inflicted. Family diaries report that William had been having an affair with a woman called Lizzie Brown and also with his sister-in-law Sallie Armistead but had been dumped by them both. They described his lifestyle as 'hopeless and feckless,' and beyond his means. William is not remembered very fondly! After William's death Jane Elizabeth brought up her children in Long Preston and then Bradford. William and 'beloved wife' Jane Elizabeth are commemorated in Long Preston graveyard.



In Loving Memory of William Armistead born March 21st 1852 died June 17th 1905. Also of his beloved wife Jane Elizabeth died 23rd July 1951 aged 74 years cremated at Bradford

Perhaps Thomas and Margaret Armistead's remaining daughter Mary Ann had better luck? Well, not really. She married **Edward Delves**, the son of a Long Preston corn dealer. Their story is so interesting they have their own account.

The lives of Thomas, Margaret, Catherine and, later, daughter Mary Ann were commemorated on a stone in the Long Preston Baptist Chapel ground, next to the grave of Thomas Armistead's parents.



In loving memory of Catherine Armistead who died November 7th, 1887 aged 26 years. Also Margaret wife of Thomas Armistead who died November 27th, 1891 aged 64 years. Also Thomas Armistead died Nov 14th, 1902 aged 80 years. and their daughter Mary Ann Delves 1859 - 1949.

Meanwhile, going back a generation, John and Mary (Cockshott) Elsworth's second daughter, Catherine Elsworth, had helped her uncle Thomas Cockshott at the farm at Deepdale Head. She married a successful farmer, **Thomas Wrathall**, in 1851 and they inherited Bend Yate from him. Wonderfully, they seemed to have a long, 'quiet, consistent' life there, which is no mean achievement in this family. The enormous memorial plinth for Thomas and Catherine Wrathall and their daughter **Mary Ellen Wrathall** can be found in the Baptist Chapel graveyard, next to that of her sister Margaret Armistead and family. Their infant daughter Mary and spinster daughter Jane, aged 79, were buried with a stone nearby. Their daughter, **Catherine May Wrathall**, died aged 24 just after her father in 1897 but doesn't seem to have been included on the memorial.



In loving memory of Thomas Wrathall of Bend Yate who died Feb 26th 1897, aged 75 years. Also Catherine his wife who died March 19th 1899. Also Mary Ellen, daughter, who died April 7th 1882, aged 19 years

Thomas and Catherine Wrathall had seven daughters and a son — what happened to the rest of them? Thomas and Catherine's only son, **John Wrathall**, remained local and took a while to sort himself out. In 1884, aged 30, he got drunk and assaulted PC Teal, 'pushed him about in the road, getting hold of his tunic and threatening to kick his head off'[2]. He was charged

11th inst. — Complainant stated that the defendant, who was strongly under the influence of drink, pushed him about in the road, afterwards getting hold of his tunic and threatening to kick his head off — The defendant denied the assault,

15s and 6d and the Bench made a point of telling John that he had no right to assault the constable. Six years later he married **Emily Jane Watson** from Bradford and farmed near Malham with Emily and his family. He retired to Heysham. Thomas and Catherine's daughter **Margaret**

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Wrathall married a Lancashire bank manager, **John Thomas Horrocks**, in what was the first marriage ceremony solemnised at Long Preston Baptist Chapel in 1878. They lived in Prestwich. Their second son, **Alan Peel Horrocks** was killed during WW1.

Thomas and Catherine's daughter **Rachel Emily Wrathall** became the second wife of John Potterton Ferguson from Meath, Ireland. John had worked as a surgeon in Fleetwood before moving to Long Preston to work there. At the time of the 1901 census, on 30 March 1901 John lived with his first wife, Williamina from Caithness. His sister-in-law and a nurse were also at the house on Hoyle Hill behind the Maypole Inn. The nurse was most likely there because Williamina died just two weeks later on 18 April. She was buried just in front of the back wall of Long Preston graveyard.



In Loving Memory of Williamina Ferguson died 18th April 1901 aged 46 years.

John didn't hang about as he married Rachel Emily Wrathall eight weeks later on 20 June in Prestwich. At the time of the 1911 census Rachel Emily was living alone in their house in Misterton, north Nottinghamshire but John was nowhere to be found. However, on 19 November 1912 he was aboard the ship '*Limerick*'. Records tell us that he died at 11.05pm that day of '*a stricture of the oesophagus, probably cancerous but no pain*' at coordinates latitude 8°0N, longitude 122°E which is in the Philippines near the island of Mindanao. Rachel Emily moved to Chelsea. London where, at the age of 66 she married **Arthur S Davies**.

This left Thomas and Catherine's daughter **Annie Wrathall**, who married **Thomas Hirst Delves**, the older brother of Edward Delves who had married Annie's cousin Mary Ann Armistead and we find out more about them in their own account.

Going back a few generations to John Elsworth and Mary Roberts, their son **Thomas Elsworth** deserves a mention, particularly as he is the first man in our project to have an occupation as a '*wharfinger*', living in Gargrave. He would have managed the canal wharf for its owner. Thomas had married **Elizabeth Wilcock** of Kildwick and they had six children. Things may not have gone very well in this marriage. At the time of the 1841 census Thomas and Elizabeth, a schoolmistress, lived with their ten year old daughter **Mary Elsworth**. Their other two children were 'visitors' at the Maypole Inn. The landlady was widowed **Agnes Moorhouse** who was Elizabeth's mum — she had married **William Moorhouse**, also of Kildwick, when Elizabeth's dad, **James Wilcock**, died. They moved to Long Preston to run the Maypole Inn. Thomas and Elizabeth had another two daughters before Elizabeth died in 1848, aged 45. Thomas wasn't one of those men who seemed able to look after the children, so they were dispatched to relations. From there, most of them had their families and lives in Lancashire.

John Elsworth and Mary Roberts' daughter **Mary Elsworth** married **Richard Whitaker**, a Rochdale grocer and they had several children, living in the Chorlton area of Manchester. Their daughter, **Emma Whitaker** married **Alfred Simpson**, a draper's traveller, in Manchester in 1860 and they had eight children. They lived in Manchester and Staffordshire, Alfred's home county. After the birth

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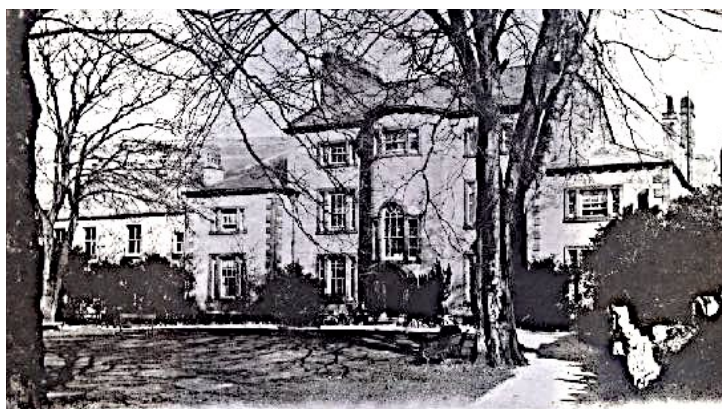
of their last child Alfred and Emma worked as hotel proprietors in the centre of Birmingham before returning to Settle to be innkeepers at the Golden Lion [LSA].

Alfred died a couple of years later and Emma continued the tenancy of the Golden Lion for a while. Emma spent her last years with her daughter **Sarah Emma** and her husband at the Ashfield in Settle. She died in 1905, aged 73. Alfred and Emma were buried in Long Preston graveyard, near the Elsworth graves, with a memorial stone commemorating the lives of several children, two sons dying abroad. It's quite possible other sons went abroad too.

In loving memory of Alfred Simpson of Settle who died October 18th 1889 aged 52 years. Also Emma wife of the above died April 18th 1905 aged 74 years 'At rest'. Walter Leonard, third son of the above born February 1864 died at Johannesburg South Africa April 1895. Also Alfred fourth son of the above born August 27th 1866 died at Warrnambool Australia August 28th 1902. Also Arthur Ryan Simpson. Also Sarah Dugdale. Also William Lewis Simpson. Also Albert Edward Simpson. Also Richard Whitaker Simpson youngest son of the above, died March 23rd 1908 aged 38 years interred at Anfield Cemetery, Liverpool.



Alfred and Emma's daughter **Sarah Emma Simpson** [ph3] married **John William Dugdale** and they took over the running of the Ashfield Hotel [ph2, LSA] from widow **Mary (Cooper) Armistead** in 1897. Mary and her husband **Henry Armistead** had previously run the Golden Lion too. It's a small world. The Ashfield had been for sale for three years, advertising 'pleasantly situated in its own grounds, close to the Midland Railway. Contains 5 entertaining rooms, 17 bedrooms, good Private Bar, Smoke Room, Billiard Room, large room used as Masonic Lodge, stabling for 20 horses ...and a large lawn suitable for a bowling green.' It was also suggested the Ashfield would make an excellent hydropathic establishment.



ASHFIELD HOTEL, SETTLE, YORKS. J. W. Dugdale, Proprietor. TELEPHONE No. 5. DOORSTEP, SETTLE, SETT

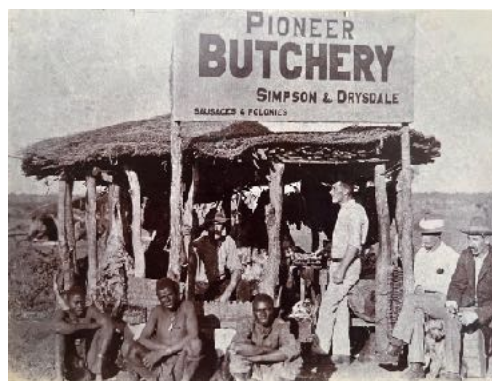
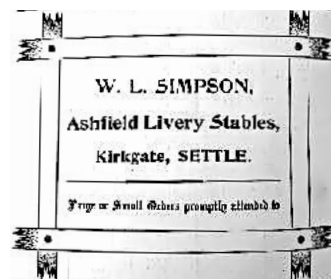


The composer Edward Elgar was known to visit Settle regularly to stay with his friend **Dr Charles William Buck**. Elgar married **Caroline Alice Roberts** in May 1889. During visits after the wedding Elgar and his wife stayed at the Ashfield, although Caroline was not impressed, apparently! The Ashfield had been bought by **Rev W J Birkbeck** whose grandfather, **William Birkbeck**, had originally built it. Rev Birkbeck was a staunch supporter of the Temperance cause and so the Ashfield's licence was revoked. John William and Sarah Emma were the perfect couple to run it as a Temperance Hotel. Their gardener was **Charlie Green** who, helpfully, left a diary about his work. He reported 'Thursday mornings jobs varied, very often with JW Dugdale at the Ashfield Hotel, during bedding out time and other special jobs. JWD was very fond of flowers and very artistic in many ways. I was always sure of a good dish of soup when working there. Mrs Dugdale was a

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splendid food provider and very kind with it, a very motherly person. . . JWD was always fond of garden parties and knew how to make them a success.' [A]

John William and Sarah Emma didn't have children of their own but helped to bring up nieces and nephews, children of her brother **Richard Whitaker Simpson** and, for a short time, a son of **William Louis/Lewis Simpson**. William Lewis/Louis Simpson worked as a 'livery stable keeper' for John William and Emma at the Ashfield [LSA]. In 1897 he married **Sarah Jane Dugdale**, the half sister of John William Dugdale. During the early 1900s William Lewis/Louis and Sarah Jane emigrated to Johannesburg but possibly returned for Sarah Jane's mother's funeral in 1911 and their son temporarily lodged with Sarah Emma and John William Dugdale. The photo was found in paperwork handed down in this family [ph4] and, even though the exact circumstances are not known, presents a fascinating portrait of some aspect of family life in Johannesburg.



John William and Sarah Emma Dugdale were buried in the grave Old F58 with an impressive stone in the style of mason **John Hardy**.



In Loving Memory of John William Dugdale Died June 23rd 1911 aged 49 years Sarah Emma, his wife died Nov 5th 1924 aged 59 years

Sarah Emma's brother **Richard Whitaker Simpson**, a butcher, died in Liverpool in 1908 aged 38. Richard left his wife, **Emily Vickers**, with six children, although one daughter, **Eva Simpson**, had died 25 minutes after birth and is buried in the unmarked grave *Old CX51*. Richard and Emily's eight year old son **Richard Stanley Simpson** was found in Giggleswick hospital at the time of the 1901 census. Uncle and aunt John William and Sarah Emma Dugdale looked after him at the Ashfield afterwards. Richard Stanley's luck took a turn for the better when he married **Ann Iveson Corney**, the daughter of **John James Corney**, the successful partner at the Brassingtons Bridge End Mill. Richard worked as the headmaster of a public elementary school in Liverpool.



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](https://dalescommunityarchives.org.uk/settle-graveyard-project). The 'Old Settle' family tree on [Ancestry.co.uk](https://ancestry.co.uk) includes the families buried in the graveyard. The project is ongoing and welcomes queries and information on settlerearch@gmail.com. Latest news and events are on the Facebook page 'Settle Graveyard Project'.

Many thanks to descendants Nick Delves and Ann Bankart for their contribution to this summary. Far more information is available on the website https://nickdelves.co.uk/family_tree.htm

Sketch with thanks to Teresa Gordon

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A – The diaries of Charles Green with the kind permission of the Museum of North Craven Life

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Leeds Mercury, 2 – Craven Herald & Wensleydale Standard, via the Long Preston Heritage Group,

ph1 – photo with thanks to Malhamdale Local History Group, ph2 – credited to Rightmove.co.uk, with thanks to descendants Ann Bankart and Nick Delves, ph3 – with thanks to the Museum of North Craven Life, ph4 – with the kind permission of relation Pam Jordan

LSA - Lambert's Settle Almanac with the kind permission of the Museum of North Craven Life