

## The Boase family, good folk

**John Boase** was born in the Scilly Isles, the son of a farmer. There is only a limited amount of land for aspiring farmers in the Scilly Isles so by 1837 John reached the mainland to marry **Betsey Broadley** of Falmouth. Cornwall was not a good place to try and make a living in those days as the Cornish mines were rapidly becoming unviable so, after a couple years, they moved to London, the big city, with John earning a living as a shoemaker. It seemed London wasn't for them either as, by the 1851 census, they had moved to St Helier on Jersey. John and Betsey obviously liked living by the sea and they stayed there for the rest of their lives.

John and Betsey had four children. Sons **David Boase** and **William Boase** had

BANKRUPTS.—From Friday's Gazette.—**William Boase**, Bilbury-street, Plymouth, brush maker, Oct. 28, at East

careers as brush makers in the South West and London. Unfortunately, William was declared bankrupt in 1868 [1]. However he returned to business afterwards. William had a family but David remained single, as did his sister **Mary Boase**. Mary spent much of her life helping with housekeeping for her eldest brother **John Charles Boase** and his family. John Charles had the brains of the family. He started his career as a shoemaker but, after marrying **Mary Boucher** in Jersey in 1863 became a schoolmaster. Mary was from Boston, Lincolnshire and soon after the wedding they moved north to Skipsea on the coast of East Yorkshire and then to Keighley to run Laycock School [ph1]. Mary also worked as a schoolmistress when she had the time between having eight children. Their work at Laycock school went well and by 1891 the school had a rebuild [2]. They had a photo taken at Laycock School with John Charles on the left and his daughter **Mary Ettie Boase** on the right [ph1].



OPENING OF A NEW BOARD SCHOOL.—On Saturday the new school erected at Laycock by the Keighley School Board was formally opened by Mr Cockshot, chairman of the Board. In the course of the proceedings, the Chairman distributed prizes to the successful scholars. The proceedings were varied by a children's miscellaneous entertainment, given under the direction of Mr and Mrs Boase, the master and mistress, and their assistants. The school has been erected from the plans of Messrs Farber Hopkinson & Co, at a total cost of £3027.



John Charles died in 1914, aged 75 and his funeral report [3] mentioned that he had been the schoolmaster at Laycock for 34 years, but it was actually closer to 40 years. Widow Mary lived for nearly 30 more years, the papers celebrating her 90th birthday the year before she died [4]. This article and John's funeral report both refer to their role in educating 'Sir Abe Bailey, South African millionaire'. **Sir Abraham Bailey** [ph2] was a South African diamond and gold tycoon, politician, financier and cricketer. Bailey's father was from Laycock but lived in South Africa with his family. When Abe's mother died he was just seven and he

The funeral took place at Laycock, near Keighley, to-day, of Mr. John Boase, who was for 34 years schoolmaster at Laycock. Sir Abe Bailey and his sisters were among the scholars and Sir Abe sent a donation towards a testimonial given to Mr. Boase by the inhabitants of the village when he retired ten years ago.



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**KEIGHLEY, Friday.**  
 Mrs. **Boase**, Ashleigh Street, **Keighley**, attained her 90th birthday to-day. Mr. and Mrs. **Boase** were head master and head mistress of the village school at Laycock, near **Keighley**, from 1872 to 1905, and taught Sir Abe Bailey, the South African millionaire.  
 "I was very fond of him," Mrs. **Boase** said yesterday. "He was a hard worker, and I remember he used to take part in entertainments held at the school. For a short period his sisters also attended the school."  
 Mr. **Boase**, who died in 1914, used to correspond with Sir Abe's father, who was a native of Laycock.  
 Mrs. **Boase**, who was born at New York, near Boston, Lincs., was married in Jersey by the father of Lily Langtry, the actress. Mrs. Boase has two daughters and one son in the teaching profession. One of the daughters is head mistress of Eastwood Junior Council School, **Keighley**, while the other is assistant mistress at Long Lee Junior and Infants' Council School, **Keighley**.

**HER 90th BIRTHD**  
**FORMER HEAD MISTRESS WHO**  
**SIR ABE BAILEY.**



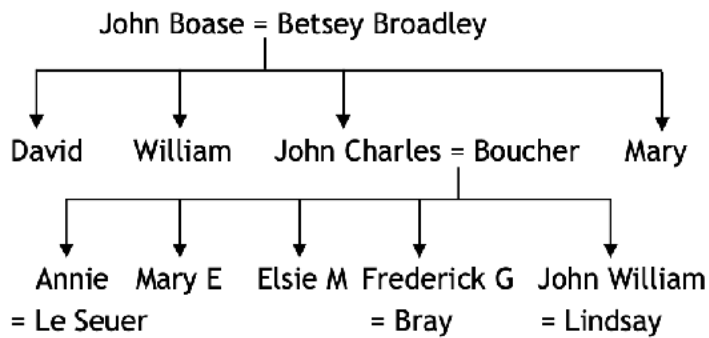
was sent to Laycock school for a few years before being finishing his education in Berkshire. Abe had brief service in the Boer wars and then got into South African politics. He was decorated numerous times and was created baronet in 1919, one of a number of 'Randlords' (mining entrepreneurs) knighted for their services to the British Empire. Via his business interests and his ties to Cecil Rhodes, Abe Bailey acquired substantial mining and land properties in the former Rhodesia. By the 1930s he was one of the world's wealthiest men

Mary's [ph1] 90th birthday article suggests that she was born in New York. She was the daughter of **John Boucher**, another shoemaker, born and bred in High Toynton, Lincolnshire. Mary's birth was registered in Lincolnshire six weeks after her birth so perhaps the family had tried their luck in New York? or perhaps it was just a great story for the journalist! The article suggests that Mary and John Charles were married in Jersey by **Rev William Corbett Le Bretton**, the father of **Lily Langtry**, the socialite, actress and producer who gained particular notoriety as the mistress of the Prince of Wales, later Edward VII. Rev William Corbett Le Bretton was also the uncle of **Eleanora Hammond** who married Holy Ascension's third vicar, **Rev Jackson Mason**. In fact, the wedding documentation names **Rev Charles Marrett** as the celebrant, but it was in the same church and so, obviously, Rev Le Bretton was involved somewhere too!

When Married.	Christian and Family Names of the Parties.	Age.	Condition.	Rank, Trade, or Profession.	Place of Residence at the time of the Marriage.	Place of Birth.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank, Trade, or Profession of the Father.
January 15 1878	John Boase	23	Bachelor	Shoemaker	St. Helier	Jersey	John Boase	Shoemaker
	Mary Boucher	20	Spinster		St. Clement	New York	John Boucher	Shoemaker
This Marriage was solemnised between us In the presence of { <i>Phil. Allington</i> } Témoins. { <i>Charles Marrett</i> } In the presence of { <i>C. Marrett</i> } Witnesses.								

Helpfully, Mary's 90th birthday article tells us that two of John Charles and Mary's daughters, **Mary Ettie Boase** and **Elsie Minnie Boase** stayed in education as spinsters. John Charles and Mary's eldest child, **Annie Ellen Boase** stayed in Jersey and married **John Walter Le Seuer**, the son of a cabinet maker. There are many members of the Le Sueur family in Jersey. However, it's possible that John Walter was the same man thought to be convicted and imprisoned in Exeter for 3 months with hard labour for stealing two composing sticks. In the end it transpired that John Le Lievre impersonated him! [5]. Either way, poor John Walter died in London in 1900, aged just 33

## John and Betsey Boase's descendants



### THE CONVICTION OF A JERSEY COMPOSITOR.

A compositor giving his name as **Walter John Le Sueur**, and his address as Jersey, was recently sentenced to three months' hard labour at Chard for stealing two composing "sticks" from the office of the *Chard and Ilminster News*. Enquiries made at headquarters tend to show that the convicted man was none other than a compositor named **John Le Lièvre**, who had assumed the name of a former fellow-workman, adding "**John**" thereto. Thinking that the publication of his name in such a connexion might prejudice his character, the real Mr. **Le Sueur** wrote to the Mayor of Chard, before whom the case was heard, on the matter, enclosing a photo of the man **Le Lièvre**, whom he had reason to suspect as the person convicted. The following reply was

leaving Annie Ellen with two children to bring up [ph1]. She raised them back in Jersey but, when her daughter, **Elsie Vera Le Sueur** died in 1914, aged just 17, Annie returned to Keighley to live with her mum, sisters and aunt Mary Boase.



John Charles and Mary's son **Frederick George Boase** became an Art master. In 1905 he married **Lilian Mary Bray**, a draper's daughter from Jersey. The wedding in 1905 was a lavish affair with a wonderful portrait of fashions of the day [ph1]. John Charles and Mary stood to the right of the groom as we look at it. Frederick's career took him to West Leeds High School where he taught for 32 years [ph1]. Frederick and Lilian celebrated their Golden Wedding in 1955 [ph1]. Frederick was also a preacher in the local Methodist circuit and spent his last years in Jersey and then Morecambe.



**EX-TEACHER DIES**  
 A former Laycock resident, Mr. Fred Boase, died in Lancaster Royal Infirmary this week. He was born 89 years ago in the old School House. After attending the village school he went to Bingley Grammar School and from there to West Kensington Art College. He was art master at West Leeds High School from 1907 to 1939 when he retired to Morecambe. He later moved to Jersey but after the loss of his son went to Grange-over-Sands. He was a local preacher in the Keighley circuit and ran house meetings in and around Laycock for the Methodist circuit from the age of 20. He was also a local preacher in the Morecambe circuit.

This story hasn't taken us to Settle yet but is about to! John Charles and Mary's son **John William Boase** began a career with the Post Office. He started working as a Postal Clerk at Keighley Post Office. In 1901 he married **Magdelene Grant Lindsay**, the daughter of a Scottish mechanical engineer who had brought his family to Keighley. In 1915, the year after his father's death, John

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William was promoted to sub-postmaster at Middleham on the northeast of the Yorkshire Dales. [6] The papers mentioned his promotion but made far more of his valuable service as the treasurer of the Keighley Temperance Society.

Postal promotion robe Keighley of one of its most ardent and enthusiastic temperance reformers. After several years' service in the Keighley Post Office as a sorting clerk and telegraphist, Mr. J. W. Boase has been promoted to the sub-postmastership of Middleham, in Bedale. Mr. Boase is, however, best known in temperance circles through his long connection with the Keighley Temperance Society, whose utility was brought far more into public prominence as a result of his labours. He took a special interest in the financial side of the work, and one of his greatest ambitions was to see the debt on the Temperance Hall ceased. While that desired end has not yet come, the debt is certainly much less than it was when Mr. Boase joined the society. As the treasurer for some years, he rendered invaluable service in putting the subscription on to a more firmer basis than it had been for some years, while in several other directions one can trace his good influence. Mr. Boase will be much missed in Keighley. He took up his new duties yesterday.



By the time of the 1921 census John William was the postmaster in Duke Street, Settle [ph3], taking over from **Walter Whiteley**. Unfortunately John William died in 1928, aged just 54, having moved to live at 21 Craven Terrace. Magdelene moved to Leeds to live with her daughter **Helen Lindsay Boase** who made a living as a shorthand typist for the department of transport. When Magdelene died in 1940, aged 68 and Helen died in 1946, aged 35 they were brought back to Settle for burial with John William in the unmarked grave plot *Old LX24*.

John William and Magdelene also had two sons. **Norman Lindsay Boase** [ph1] worked as a petrol pump fitter on Church Street in Settle and had a family with **Ada Teasdale Potts**, a railway platelayer's daughter. John William and Magdelene's second son, **William Thomson Boase** followed in his father's footsteps to work in the Post Office in Skipton.



*This account has been compiled 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.*

*Life stories 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'.*

*The life stories of people with italicised names have been researched as part of the graveyard project. With thanks to descendant Amanda Brennan for many of the photos included in this story, posted on her family tree [Ancestry.co.uk](http://Ancestry.co.uk)*

*Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Western times, 2 – Bingley Chronicle, 3 – Yorkshire Evening Post, 4 – Leeds Mercury, 5 – Chard and Ilminster news, 6 – Bradford Daily Telegraph*

*ph1 – credited to family descendants via [Ancestry.co.uk](http://Ancestry.co.uk), username amandabrennan, ph2 – Wikipedia, public domain, ph3 – credited to the Back in Settle Facebook page, submitted by Hector J Hill*