

Dr Frederick William Barry, an extraordinary man

One of Settle's least known and understated residents was **Dr Frederick William Barry** who made a significant impact in the Craven district and across the UK. What's his story?

To say that Dr Barry came from a line of successful men is an enormous understatement. Rarely do we come across a family who contribute to their communities (and country) like this one! Dr Barry's grandfather was **John Barry** of Scarborough. John and his son **John Barry (Jnr)** and grandson **John Albert Corellis Barry** [ph1] were responsible for building some of the most prestigious landmarks in Scarborough. These included churches, including St Andrew's United Reformed Church which was part funded by **Sir Titus Salt** as he had numerous connections with Scarborough. In 1870, Titus employed John Barry (Jnr) to build the Victoria Hall in Saltaire — you can get married there these days!



John (Snr) built a *'triumphal arch outside the railway station'*, and, in 1843, the old Westborough-Newborough Bar [ph3], but it was demolished in 1890 to allow traffic to flow through the town. Son John was contracted to build the old racecourse grandstand in 1867 [ph4], the Queen Street Convent of the Ladies of Mary and Scarborough Cliff Bridge. Both Johns were involved in building some of the various improvements to Scarborough Spa and its grand hall. Impressive, huh? Newspaper reports suggest the Barrys kept their heads down in political matters, however John (Snr) was the Mayor in 1859/60. It's good to know that, in 1993, Scarborough Central Library hosted an exhibition of John (Snr)'s work, being *'renowned for his architecture in Scarborough during the mid 1880s'*. It's about time for another exhibition, isn't it? [1]



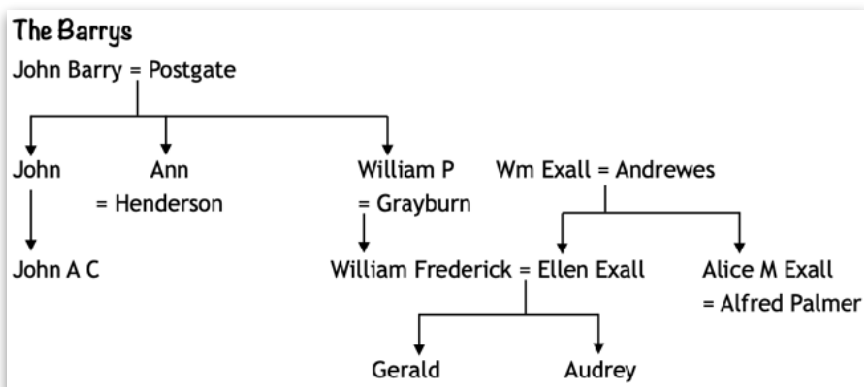
John Barry (Snr) and his wife **Mary Ann Postgate** had eight children, living in Westfield Terrace in Scarborough, a very grand row of houses which were demolished in the 1930s. Of note, their eldest daughter, **Ann Barry**, married a Scottish doctor, **John Henderson** and they lived in Leith. John and Mary Ann's son **Thomas Postgate Barry** was also a builder in York but didn't reach the career heights of his father and brother.

John and Mary Ann's eldest son was **William Postgate Barry** although he quickly disposed of the 'Postgate' in records. He also started life as an architect and builder but was also found in census returns as a bank manager, brick stone manufacturer and, at the end of his career, a Borough Magistrate and councillor. He lived with his wife, **Selina Shacklock Grayburn** and family at the Lodge of the Royal Crescent in Scarborough, an even more impressive residence [ph6]. You can buy a small apartment there now for £200K. William had fingers in many business pies across the



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north of England, including a pottery works near Burton-on-Trent [2]. William was the architect who designed Scarborough Dispensary and Accident Hospital in 1858 and was invited to the opening ceremony of Scarborough Industrial Exhibition in 1894. He was the Chair of the Board of Guardians.



William appeared to have more to do with politics than his father and was on the Town Council, as a Liberal, dealing with numerous community issues. In an understated way, just like his father, William was announced as Mayor for 1882-3 [3]. When William died of heart disease in 1898, aged 70, his obituary told us a bit more about his life of over 50 years in public service. He had been appointed a Borough Magistrate in 1878 and a West Riding Magistrate in 1890. He was on the Burial Board, the Cliff Bridge Committee and the Scarborough School Board [4]. In another article [5] just under a typical newspaper 'joke' — *"Do you take this man for better or worse?" asked the minister. "I can't tell till I've had him for a while" returned the bride*, — it transpired that William

His father, Mr. John Barry, was Mayor in 1859-60, and the deceased occupied that position in 1882-83. He had also represented different wards of the town on the municipal body. He was appointed a borough magistrate on October 25th, 1878, and a North Riding magistrate at Michaelmas, 1890. Mr. Barry was also chairman of the Scarborough Burial Board, and a member of the Cliff Bridge Committee. He had likewise occupied a seat on the Scarborough School Board.

"Do you take this man for better or for worse?" asked the minister. "I can't tell till I've had him for awhile," returned the bride.
Mr. William Barry, one of the oldest magistrates of Scarborough, died very suddenly yesterday morning, at his residence, Royal Crescent Lodge. He was in his 71st year, and was a native of Scarborough. Mr Barry began life as a builder and contractor, and soon made a reputation by successfully building the Leith docks, the contract price of which was £153,000.

'made a reputation by successfully building the Leith docks, the contract price of which was £153,000.' Wow! The Leith docks were frequently modified and extended as demand rose through the century. William's contribution was in 1852 when the Victoria Dock was built to accommodate the new larger steam ships. One article also mentions that when William died, *'only three months ago he lost his wife, Selina and also his son, Dr FW Barry'*. Oh dear, perhaps that contributed to the heart attack?

William and Selina had a daughter, **Louisa Isabel Barry**, who died when she was just two, and another son, **Charles Alfred Barry**, who had an uneventful life as a vicar in Clifford, Boston Spa. William, Selina, their daughter Louisa Isabel, his parents and grandparents were all buried in an enormous and impressive family tomb at Scarborough's Dean Road and Manor Road Cemetery [ph7]. The full inscription is given at the end of this account.



So, with this background there were some very high, probably unspoken, expectations of Frederick William Barry who was born in Leith in 1851 when his father was involved in the construction of Leith Docks. We know Frederick William became a medical man, but this was just the first of numerous achievements. Frederick William was educated at Edinburgh University, conveniently lodging with his aunt Ann and uncle Henderson, the surgeon. *'He distinguished himself as a*

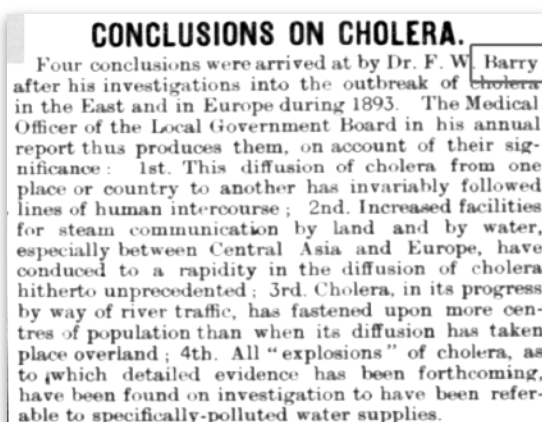
student by obtaining the University medal for practical physiology and histology in 1871-2'. From there he studied at Cambridge for a diploma in public health, 'to which branch of his profession he subsequently devoted himself'. In 1875, aged 24, he married **Ellen Montague Exall** who came with credentials as impressive as Frederick William's, as we shall see. They had a son and a daughter.

Frederick William's [ph8] first appointment in the late 1870s was here in Settle as the medical officer for the Craven Sanitary District. He chose to live at Linton Court, opposite the Golden Lion, previously inhabited by **Edwin Septimus Green** and family. This was the family base until the late 1890s, probably to enable their son to attend Giggleswick School. Whilst based here Frederick William published a few reports 'which attracted such favourable notice that, in 1880, he was appointed superintendent and sanitary inspector for Cyprus' which had only just been acquired by the British and was leased from the Ottoman Empire. That's some achievement! He was replaced as the Craven Medical Officer by **Dr Atkinson**. Back in England, in 1882, Frederick William became an



inspector in the medical department of the Local Government Board. This involved travelling all around the country, to places including Birmingham, Leicester, Shipley, Manchester, Calverley, Manchester Ship Canal and Tynemouth for specific commissions about particular medical issues but with Linton Court as the family base [6]. Wife Ellen would have spent many days and nights running the ship single handed, with the help of several servants, of course. By 1901 the family had moved to Kensington, London which was probably much more convenient for Dr Barry's work and Ellen's sanity. Frederick William was best known for his 'masterly reports' on community sanitation, water supplies, housing conditions, vaccinations and the causes and prevention of cholera.

'His work was always marked by great ability, thoroughness and sound judgement. It included a series of masterly reports which form a contribution of lasting value to the science of public health which, in many instances have led to legislative action and reforms. His report dealing with smallpox hit the anti-vaccinationists very hard'. On cholera he found that 'all "explosions" of cholera has been found to have been referable to specifically polluted water supplies' [7]. Cholera was proven to be waterborne in 1854 by **Dr. John Snow** during a severe outbreak in Soho, but, as we can see, it took years for his findings to be fully accepted by the medical community. Frederick William also oversaw exotic diseases, statistics and formulating opinions for the Government. He was an examiner in medical jurisprudence, applying medical knowledge to legal situations. He was obviously a well trusted expert with phenomenal responsibility.



In October 1897 Frederick William was called to Birmingham 'to inspect and supervise the carrying out of the vaccination laws.' However, on 12 October 1897 Fredrick William was found dead in his

room at the Grand Hotel in Birmingham by the chamber maid who was attempting to wake him up at 7.30am as requested. He was lying on the floor partially dressed.

'The electric light was still burning but his body was cold', suggesting he had died earlier in the night [8]. 'Mr Barry's death, which has occurred in the full usefulness of his

career, was probably due to an accident sustained in the exercise of his duties. 12 months previously, when on duty in Yorkshire he struck his head against a stone doorway and severely strained the tissues and ligaments at the base of his skull.' He was in bed for 16 weeks. He had

only started work again that day to resume his work in Birmingham. *'Dr Felix Vinrace said that Dr Barry appeared to have been clipping his toenails and the position he would have to have assumed for the purpose*

had, no doubt, induced syncope' — a temporary loss of consciousness caused by a sudden reduction in blood flow to the brain [9]. Frederick William was just 46 and, as we know, died a year before his father. We can only imagine what he could have achieved if he had lived a longer life? Ellen died in 1917, aged 69.

At the time of the 1891 census, Frederick, Ellen and family had Ellen's niece, **Phyllis Palmer** living with them which leads us nicely onto Ellen's incredible family. Ellen Montague Exall was born in Reading, one of ten children of **William Exall** and his first wife **Frances Mary Andrewes**. They had two sets of twin boys, all of whom died as infants, as did two other sons. So, just three daughters remained. What did William get up to? Well, quite a lot!

At the time of the census returns William Exall described his occupation as a civil engineer. In 1842, when he was 33, William dissolved a partnership with **Martha Perry** and **George Barrett**, *'Ironfounders and Engineers'* to be replaced by *'Barrett, Exall and Andrewes'*, the Andrewes being his brother-in-law, **Charles James Andrewes** [10]. The new company assured customers they were *'now in a position to compete with any house in their trade, their proximity to the Great Western Railway, together with their augmented steam power and extensive machinery, affording them facilities for the execution of orders to an unlimited extent.'* They were particularly promoting their *'New and Improved Hand Thrashing Machine'*, their *'Improved Double Action Turnip Cutter'*, their *'Much Improved Gorse Cutting Machine'*, and old metal could be taken in exchange for payment. In subsequent years William took out patents on several tools and pieces of machinery.

but still not being able to get a reply opened the bedroom door and saw Dr. Barry lying on his back on the bedroom floor, partially dressed, to all appearances dead. A doctor was sent for, and could only confirm this opinion. The electric light was still burning, and the sheets of the bed were only slightly creased, the body was cold, suggesting the idea that Dr. Barry died in the early part of the night. He was expected at the parish offices

Barry. Dr. Felix Vinrace said that Dr. Barry appeared to have been clipping his [toe]nails, and the position he would have to assume for the purpose had, no doubt, induced syncope. A verdict of "Death from natural causes" was recorded.

They beg particularly to recommend to their agricultural friends their
NEW & IMPROVED HAND THRASHING MACHINE,
capable of being worked also by a horse, the economy of which
on a farm is generally admitted, as it so materially
lessens labour.
THEIR IMPROVED DOUBLE ACTION TURNIP CUTTER,
FOR SHEEP AND BEASTS.

In 1846 William was the subject of *'Whig Jobbery at Reading'* when he was appointed as a Borough Magistrate *'without the knowledge of his fellow townsmen'* and it was felt that he had been appointed as a reward for political services. *'If the town of Reading were polled, such is the indignation at the proceeding, even his own friends would be found recording their votes against Mr Exall's fitness'* [11]. Ouch! Clearly, playing with a straight bat was not William's priority!

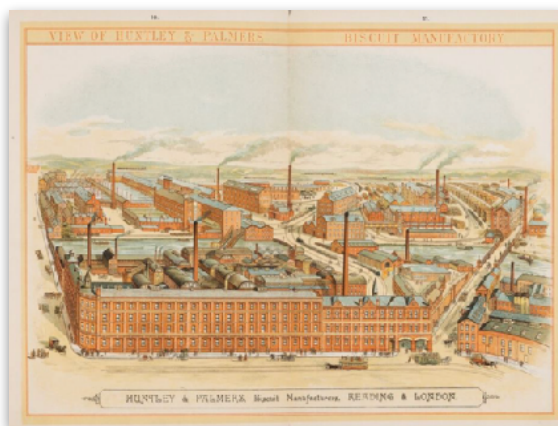
Like the Barrys, in 1855/6 William Exall became Reading Town Mayor and one of his responsibilities was to write to the townsmen asking them to refrain from business on Wednesday 21 March 1855

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for 'a day of solemn fast, humiliation and prayer, to be observed by the whole nation' [12]. This wasn't the date for Easter but could have been linked to the ongoing Siege of Sebastopol during the Crimean War. Later that year, as Mayor, William took the Chair at a public dinner for 200 gentlemen and tradesmen to celebrate the opening of the new Corn Exchange [13], on the left of the photo [ph13]. It's now grade 2 listed.



If we thought Ellen Montague Exall did well when she married Frederick William Barry, William and Frances Mary's youngest daughter, **Alice Maria Exall**, really won the jackpot with her marriage to **Alfred Palmer**. Alfred was the son of **George Palmer** who co-founded Huntley and Palmers' biscuits in Reading in 1846 [ph9]. Huntley & Palmers was the world's first global biscuit brand and, by 1900, the largest biscuit manufacturer in the world. Based in Reading, they defined the Victorian 'Biscuit Town' industry with iconic, decorated tins, supplying countries worldwide, including to royalty. By 1894, when Alfred was involved in the business, around 9% of Reading's population worked for Huntley & Palmers. Reading FC's nickname is the 'Biscuit-men', and Reading prison has been known as 'The Biscuit Factory'. The durability of Huntley & Palmers tins, and the longevity of their produce resulted in Captain Scott taking their biscuits and cakes on his Antarctic expedition in 1910 [ph10].



Alfred Palmer spent over fifty years at Huntley and Palmers, mainly as the head of the engineering department and later as a director of the company. He was a significant benefactor of the University of Reading, and a Magistrate and the High Sheriff of Berkshire in 1905. From 1901 onwards, Alfred and Alice Maria's country estate was Wokefield Park [ph10] in Stratfield Mortimer, just south of Reading and that's where Alfred became an award winning breeder of Galloway



cattle. Alice Maria had her photo taken inside one of its many rooms [ph11]. At Alfred's death, its 1936 it was sold to the De La Salle Catholic Brothers for use as a school.

Alfred and Alice Maria's son, **Eustace Exall Palmer**, continued to work in the family business, living at Prior's Court Chieveley, another impressive abode. Alfred and Alice Maria's daughter **Phyllis Maude Palmer**, who visited the Barrys in Settle in 1891, married **William Harold Gardiner** who was a director of an Australian export company and they had two sons. However, ten years into their marriage things broke down and they lived apart. Phyllis [ph13] took William Harold to the divorce courts to petition for the restitution of conjugal rights. She claimed he was having an inappropriate relationship with a servant. No common ground could be found and so a divorce was granted. They both remarried but Phyllis' second husband, **Ernest Edward Langford**, a military man from New Zealand, died six years after their marriage, leaving an estate of just £49 to Phyllis. At the time of the 1939 register she was found residing in the Hotel Metropole in Brighton.



What happened to Frederick William and Ellen Barry's children? **Gerald Exall Barry** attended Giggleswick School, reported as '*Biggleswick School*'! [14] as a day student and obtained a classical exhibition. Then he headed to Harrow School on a Mathematical scholarship and Trinity College, Oxford University. He rowed in the 'Trinity eight' College Boat, which won the Thames Challenge Cup at Henley in 1898 and was Captain of the boating club the following year. In 1900 the papers announced that Gerald had become engaged to **Ruth Barret** but the wedding didn't materialise, for some reason. At the time of the 1901 census Gerald lived with his aunt Alice Maria (Exall) Palmer and her husband Alfred Palmer at Wokefield House. Sadly, Gerald died in 1904, aged just 26, still at Wokefield, half way through studying for his MB — the Bachelor of Medicine qualification, having studied medicine at St Barts Hospital. Gerald was spending a Christmas break at Wokefield where he developed a chill and then pneumonia which proved fatal. Who knows what he would have achieved if he had survived? He was buried at St Mary's churchyard next to Wokefield. Poor Ellen had lost her husband and son prematurely within seven years.

After Dr Barry's and Gerald's death, Frederick William and Ellen's daughter, **Audrey Beatrix Barry**, spent several years travelling the world with her widowed mum. Then, in 1917 she married **Joseph William Taylor** a clerk at an insurance office. Audrey Beatrix was 90 when she died. They didn't have children and neither did Gerald so this was the end of Dr Barry's line.



Memorial inscription of the Barry family tomb at Scarborough's Dean Road and Manor Road Cemetery:

In MEMORIAM JOHN BARRY of Scarborough, died Nov 26th. 1866, aged 63 years. MARY ANN wife of JOHN BARRY died June 12th 1853, aged 47 years. MARY JANE, daughter of the above, died March 6th 1838, aged 2 years. SARAH, died April 21st 1840, aged 2 years and 9 months. HENRY, settleresearch@gmail.com

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died at Leith Nov. 19th. 1850, aged 4 years and 4 months. MARTHA ANN, mother in law of JOHN BARRY. died Feb 14th. 1869. aged 79 years. MARTHA, relict of JOHN BARRY, died Dec. 1st. 1890, aged 82 years.

IN MEMORIAM MARY HANNAH wife of JOHN BARRY Junr died Sept. 11th. 1869, aged 32 years. ALICE MAUD MARY, daughter of the above died March 9th. 1866. aged 2 years and 3 months. LAURANCE EDWARD son of JOHN & EMMA BARRY died Decr. 25th. 1887, aged 3 years.

JOHN BARRY died Nov 17th. 1910, aged 79 years. NORA, youngest daughter of J. & E. BARRY, died Nov. 20th. 1916, aged 35 years. ELEANOR ADA, third daughter of JOHN & MARY HANNAH BARRY born Sept. 1st 1868, died Nov. 16th. 1923.

In MEMORIAM LOUISA ISABEL daughter of WILLIAM and SELINA S. BARRY. aged 2 years and 5 months. SELINA SHACKLOCK, wife of WILLIAM BARRY, died Jan. 20th. 1898. WILLIAM BARRY, died April 5th. 1898, aged 70 years. MARY ANN GRAYBURN, died March 10th. 1896, aged 77 years.



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 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'. The life stories of people with italicised names have been researched as part of the graveyard project.

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Scarborough Evening News, 2 – Manchester Courier, 3 – Malton Messenger, 4 – Sheffield Daily Telegraph, 5 – Hull and East Yorkshire Times, 6 – London Echo, 7 – Hampshire Post, 8 – London Daily Chronicle, 9 – Evening Mail, 10 – Reading Mercury, 11 – London Evening Standard, 12 – Berkshire Chronicle, 13 – Windsor and Eton Express, 14 – Reading Observer

ph1 – credited to family descendants via Ancestry.co.uk, username Jason MacGilp, ph2 – credited to victoriahallsaltire.co.uk, ph3 – credited to the Facebook site All things Scarborough, ph4 – credited to goingbehind.com, ph5 – credited to the Facebook site Pictures of Scarborough Old and New, submitted by Kelvin Allen, ph6 – credited to onthemarket.com, ph7 – photo credited to memorial stone findagrave.com, submitted by John Mallin, ph8 – The Graphic, ph9,10 – collections.reading.ac.uk, ph10, ph12 – credited to family descendants via Ancestry.co.uk, username carolynne9, ph11 – credited to family descendants via Ancestry.co.uk, username gardiner400, ph13 – credited to family descendants via Ancestry.co.uk, username Nick Gardiner, ph13 – Wikipedia Public domain, author Henry Taunt