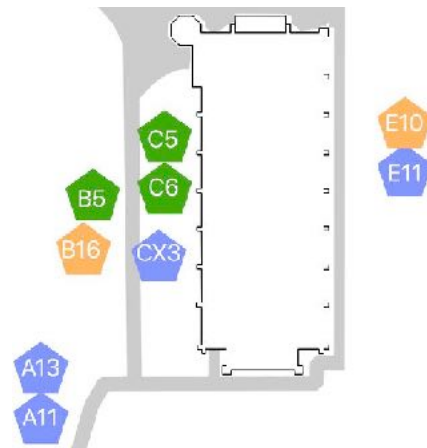


The Harger family, successful trading empire

Brothers William, Robert, and Joseph Harger account for at least eight of the graves in the Ancient graveyard and numerous others in the Old and New graveyards. Accounts of the more recent family are given in the Old Graveyard stories.



1. William Harger, a farmer

William Harger, born in 1771, was a successful farmer who married **Mary Holden**. In 1794, William was elected to serve as 'Constable for the Town' in the days well before Police Forces were even thought of [A].

William and Mary had seven daughters. Eldest daughter **Agnes** died aged 19 and is buried with them.

Their 2nd daughter **Elizabeth** married a farmer and landowner **Thomas Wetherall**. They lived at Hurries Farm near Otterburn. They had servants but no children.

William and Mary's third daughter **Ellen** and fifth daughter **Maria** married brothers **John** and **William Armistead** - see the account of the *Armisteads*. John is buried in grave E10, and Ellen and daughter Annie are commemorated on the stone.

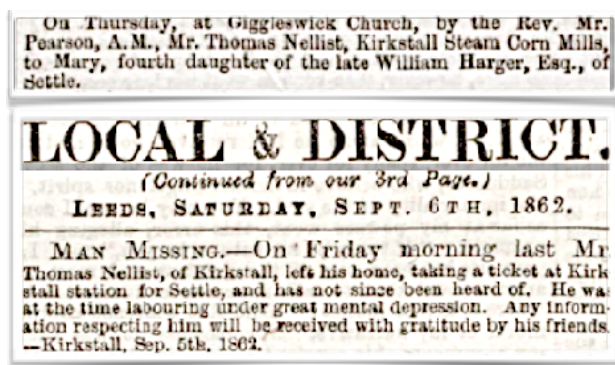
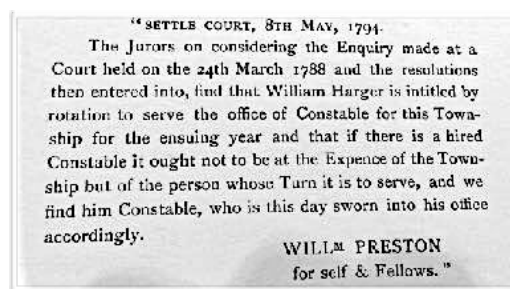
William and Mary's 4th daughter **Mary Harger** became the second wife of **Thomas Nellist** who was the book keeper at Kirkstall Steam Corn Mills [1]. There had been numerous water mills in the Kirkstall valley, but this was one of the early steam powered ones, and is now the site of a (rather good) leisure centre. Eight years after the marriage, Thomas went missing [1].

However Thomas must have turned up, as he was still working in the corn mill in the next census. They had at least five children.

William and Mary's 6th daughter **Isabella** married **Robert Slinger**, a farmer. They are buried in the Old graveyard E64 with a son William. Their daughter Eleanor (Smith) is with them - she died shortly after marrying Tom Smith. Their 7th daughter **Agnes Jane** was born two years after her elder sister Agnes had died. Agnes Jane died a spinster aged 62 and she is buried in the Old graveyard D75, all by herself.

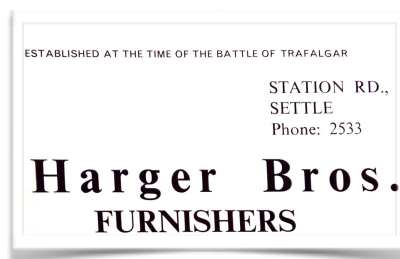


B16 In memory of William Harger who departed this life Jany 27th 1854 aged 82 years. Also of Agnes his daughter who died April 2nd 1829 aged 19 and who was interred at Giggleswick. Also of Mary widow of the above who died July 19th 1878 aged 91 years.



2. Robert Harger, a joiner

Robert Harger, born in 1775, married Agnes Hallpike in 1801 and they had at least ten children with just two sons, one of whom died in infancy. Robert was the instigator of the Harger Brothers North Craven Saw Mill and Furnishers – the business allegedly started ‘at the time of the Battle of Trafalgar’ in 1805 [LSA]. Agnes’ dad, Vincent Hallpike, ran a successful furniture business in Settle Market Place, next to the White Horse Hotel and Robert had been apprenticed to him. Robert and Agnes are buried at Giggleswick, and the back of their stone commemorates the death of several of their ten children, two of whom died in infancy.

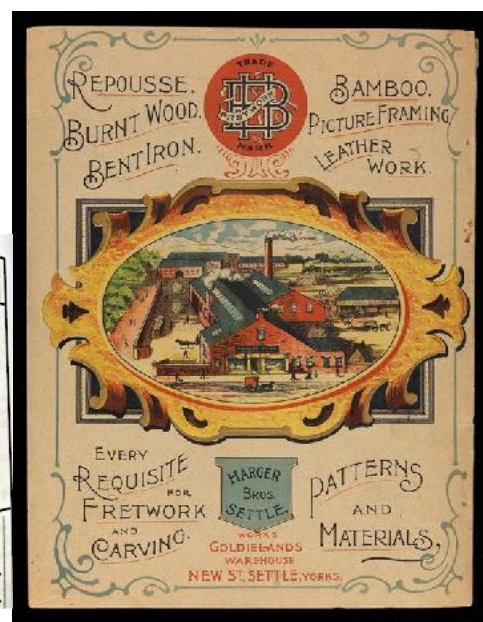


Robert and Agnes’ first daughter Nancy married the stonemason Thomas Bateson from Thornton in Lonsdale and had ten children. Tragically they both died in 1849 of typhoid. Thomas’ death was witnessed by fellow stonemason and brother-in-law Lawrence Hodgson who had his own share of tragedy combined with some great achievements.

Thomas Bateson	Thomas Bateson	Male	51	Stone mason	Spouse died 1849	Lawrence Hodgson
1849	Bateson		Years		By hotel	Hodgson
Settle					14 days	Present at the death
					Concord	Settle

Youngest son Joseph Harger Bateson died with them, and they are buried in unmarked grave CX2. The other nine children all survived, miraculously, looked after by a variety of relatives. Of particular note, their daughter Agnes Bateson married John Wilkinson Newsholme, son of the local cabinet maker. The bad luck of this family was completely overturned by the success of her own family, an incredible tale.

Son Joseph, born in 1809, continued the family business. The Harger building empire succeeded in Settle for generations, well known for their quality fretwork and carving [SC,LSA,B]. The business was at Goldielands with premises reaching down to the river. Their headquarters were on Station Road.



The Hargers were active Methodists [SC] in Settle circuit including Rathmell, Horton and Langcliffe. Joseph was a teacher at the Wesleyan church and later became Superintendent Minister, serving there for 52 years [C]. Joseph worked alongside John Lord. In the mid nineteenth century, support for the non conformist movement in Settle was at its peak. Unlike the Church of England clergy, these men (and very occasionally women) worked voluntarily outside the hours of their full time jobs. Upon Joseph’s death, William Walker and Thomas Dixon took over the office of Superintendent ‘with fidelity and efficiency’ - see Rev William Towler.

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The Hargers were, appropriately, involved in the building of both the Methodist Chapel built on Chapel Street in 1810, costing around £750 and the Chapel built on Church Street in 1893 (recently demolished) [B], costing just over £2000, both raised by subscription. The Church Street Chapel was built by the Harger brothers with stonemason John Hardy, (who coincidentally inscribed the gravestone of Robert Harger in Skipton, below). The Chapel was built 'to seat 352 adults, or 470 persons'. The Hargers also built Prospect Terrace (Goldielands) and Halsteads at the top of Duke Street.

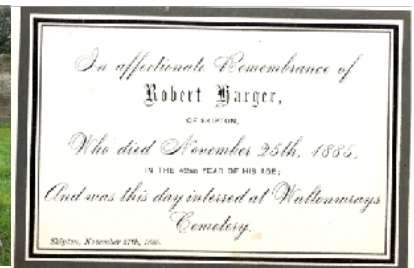


Joseph Harger [ph1] is buried in *Old grave A11*, the earliest dated gravestone in the Old graveyard. Robert's daughter Catherine became the second wife of *Lawrence Hodgson*. They are both buried in an unmarked grave. Daughter Maria married *Joseph Jackson*. The grave of Maria (and their son George) is in plot *E11*, next to the plot of her brother-in-law John Armistead (above). Joseph Jackson is buried in *Old grave A13* in a grave of similar style to that of his brother-in-law Joseph Harger.



In loving memory of Joseph Harger who died April 14th 1886 aged 76 years. Also Margaret his wife died Sep 12th 1891 aged 74 years. Robert, eldest son of the above died at Skipton Nov 25th 1885 aged 41 years. Also Annie his wife died Dec 27th 1893 aged 49 years.

Joseph's son Robert and his wife Annie Kirkby are commemorated on this gravestone. In fact Robert, an 'inspector of nuisances' and health officer, was buried in Skipton [ph2]. His death (from a weak heart) occurred just as the Old graveyard was opening so there may not have been time to make the appropriate arrangements to bury him here. His wife Annie Kirkby died in Morecambe but was brought back for burial to Settle. Robert's first wife was **Mary Isabella Harvey** daughter of *Thomas Anderson Harvey* of the Zion church. It seems that Mary Isabella died after childbirth, together with an infant daughter and they are commemorated on a headstone in the Zion churchyard.



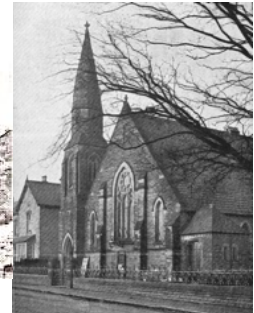
3. Joseph Harger, the innkeeper of the Royal Oak

Joseph Harger, born in 1779/80, married **Ellen Holden**, the sister of Mary who married Joseph's brother William. They had at least nine children, four of whom are buried with them. Joseph was the innkeeper of the **Royal Oak**, renting from George Dudgeon Hartley who lived at

The writer remembers being taught in this room, by the late Mr. John Brayshaw.

In the year 1834, the name of **Joseph Harger** is in the list of teachers and he remained loyal to the school, becoming its Superintendent and until his death in 1886; after his death Mr. Thomas Dixon and Mr. William Walker fulfilled this office with fidelity and efficiency.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL. The scholars belonging to the Sunday School in connection with the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Settle, met at their annual Christmas Breakfast on Monday morning, the 26th, at eight o'clock. The teachers and friends of the school then partook of breakfast together, after which suitable addresses were delivered by Mr. Joseph Harger, the superintendent, Mr James Redmayne, and several other friends. A few Christmas Hymns were also sung by the children, and the meeting was kept up with great interest until 12 o'clock.



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'Whitefriars' next door. Four of their unmarried children, Joseph, a Cheshire wine merchant, John, a farmer, Nancy and Sarah are buried next to them, with the stone now doing battle with a tree. Other children are buried in the Old graveyard.

C6 In memory of Joseph Harger of Settle, who died 10th June 1848 aged 68 and of Ellen his wife who died 23 Jan'y 1863 aged 78 years. Also their children viz, Eli who died 26th May 1834 aged 5 years. William who died 4th Oct'r 1851 aged 40 years. Mary who died 24th Oct'r 1864 aged 50 years, Richard who died 19 Dec'r 1866 aged 48 years.



C5 In memory of Joseph Harger of Oxton, Cheshire, eldest son of Joseph and Ellen Harger of Settle, who died 30 Nov 1869 aged 61 years. Also John who died 5th Dec 1872 aged 48 years. Nancy their daughter who died 19th May 188(3) aged 67 years. Sarah who died 29th Feb 1896 aged 74 years.

Joseph and Ellen's daughter **Mary Harger** married **John Johnson Hartley** in 1839. They are buried in grave **B5**

William, Robert and Joseph's brother **Eli** was the innkeeper at the Old Naked Man next door to brother Joseph at the Royal Oak. He was predeceased by all of his five children. Deaf and dumb daughter **Agnes** died in May 1822. The last of Eli's children to die was **Elizabeth**, on October 4th 1844. The unfortunate **ET Foster** was **Edward Thomas Foster**, a tea dealer who lived on Constitution Hill. **William Lodge Paley's** diaries describe that Eli was 'addicted to liquor' and perhaps he had more reason than most. Eli is buried at Giggleswick with his widow **Mary** who died in 1869.

28. Oct. for the distressed man.
May 21.—Eli Hargers buried eldest girl Agnes, who was deaf and dumb. Poor Lewis Slater had his leg shockingly

children to read.
Oct. 4.—Eli Harger's daughter died of a series of strokes and E. T. Foster broke his thigh and some ribs, falling out of hayloft.

Brother **Richard** owned several properties and the plumbing business on Castle Hill. He gave an apprenticeship to the equally successful **Joseph Jackson**, whose mother bought out the business after **Richard's** death in 1833, aged 51. **Richard** had married **Isabella Lister** but they had no children. When **Richard** died, he was described as 'obese' in the diaries of **William Lodge Paley**, and spent time in an asylum in 1821, not for the first time, and was still "rather flighty" and "very fat" in 1822. Wife **Isabella** ran his numerous properties and businesses until she died in 1843. **Richard** and **Isabella** are buried at Giggleswick. Their Castle Hill properties stayed in the family, owned by **Hugh Armistead** from 1912 - 1921, descendant of **William Armistead** and **Maria Harger**, **Richard's** niece - **Armistead family**.

Feb. 8.—Called on Mrs. R. Harger whose husband is in the Asylum at York again. Mr. Clapham informed me that seriously prepared for it to be so.
March 28.—Smoked a pipe with Richd. Harger at night. He talked very rationally some time, but thought him rather flighty e'er I came away. He's very fat. Scott was quite my h'nle



This account has been compiled as part of the Settle Graveyard Project. The project has recorded gravestone inscriptions, updated church records and researched the lives of those buried. The 'Old Settle' family tree on ancestry.co.uk includes all the families buried in the graveyard. The project is ongoing, and always welcomes queries, information and family knowledge on settleresearch@gmail.com. Latest news and events are on the Facebook page Settle Graveyard Project.

Settle Graveyard Project

With thanks to Allan Gould, a Harger descendant for his help with the compilation of this account.

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

LSA - Lambert's Settle Almanac, with the kind permission of the North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust

SC – Settle Chronicle, with the kind permission of the North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust

ph1 – photo with the kind permission of the North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust, ph2 – burial card and gravestone photo with kind permission of Allan Gould

[A] – The Ancient Parish of Giggleswick - Brayshaw and Robinson

[B] – credited to the Back in Settle facebook site

[C] – Memories of my ministry by Rev John Woolerton, Superintendent Minister 1891 - 3

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Leeds Times.