

## **CHARLES JOHN WALTON, 1842 - 1864**

Charles was born April 21 1842 at Woodstock, Oxfordshire.

His parents Charles Walton and Eunice Walker were married 22 Mar 1841 at the church of •St Mary Magdalen in Oxford. Between 1842 and 1856 they had 5 sons and 3 daughters, Charles was their first child.

The 1851 shows Charles' parents living at Twyford Wharf Twyford Oxfordshire. Charles Senior is a farmer and Eunice an Inn Keeper (possibly at the former Red Lion pub at Twyford Wharf). Also at the house are 4 Children (but not Charles) plus 2 servants.

The 1851 census finds Charles age 8, a scholar, living with his uncle and aunt, John and Esther Walker in Kirtlington, Oxfordshire. John is described as a Landed Proprietor.

The 1861 census finds Charles age 18, now a Tailor, still living in Kirtlington with his widowed aunt Esther.

By 1864 Charles was working as a Railway Porter. His aunt Esther, with who he had resided, passed away in 1863. Charles was due to inherit an interest in property from the estate of his late uncle John. Possibly he had decided to see more of the world and earn some money by working on the railways. He came to Bromsgrove about 6 weeks prior to the accident that took his life. On the afternoon of 17 March 1864, Charles was knocked down and injured by a train, while crossing the rails at Bromsgrove station. He was conveyed, on the train that knocked him down, to hospital in Birmingham.

On 18 March he made his last will and testament, ceding interests in the property he was to inherit from his uncle John, to others in the family. He died 4 days later on 22 March 1864. His remains returned to his family and he was interred at Kirtlington, Oxfordshire on 26 March 1864.

## **BROMSGROVE & DROITWICH WEEKLY MESSENGER - 19 MARCH 1864**

### **SERIOUS ACCIDENT AT BROMSGROVE RAILWAY STATION.**

On Thursday afternoon last, a terrible accident occurred at this station to one of the Porters named Charles Watton, who had only been in the company's employ about five weeks, and therefore not so much accustomed to the duties as to avoid those accidents which are of too frequent occurrence to parties crossing the line when trains are due. Watton had just put on the signal for the "down" goods train, at half-past three o'clock, and after doing so he endeavoured to cross the line towards the opposite platform; so that when he stepped on the rails, to cross in a slanting direction, his back would be toward the "up" train, which was coming at the same time, but which, of course, he did not observe until it was close to him. Another porter, named Appleton, was a yard or two from Watton when he signalled, and in half a minute, on turning round, missed him; but, on looking at the line, saw the unfortunate man crossing in front of the approaching train, too late to give the alarm, as it would have been impossible to make him hear at that moment.

Watton had cleared the buffer nearest to him, but was knocked down on the off' side, and the wheels passed over both his feet, as well as his thigh. He was instantly picked up, bandaged, and sent off to the Birmingham General Hospital, attended by Mr. Dixon and other railway officials. in the same train which had run over him. Mr. Prosser, surgeon, of Bromsgrove, arrived at the station, but just too late to render his services, as the train which contained the wounded man had started a few minutes before his arrival. On examination by the medical gentlemen of the Hospital, it was deemed necessary to amputate one foot, which was literally smashed, but the operation was delayed until next day, from the man's exhausted state. The other foot was much hurt, but hopes were entertained of saving it. The thigh (in the upper part near the hip) was dreadfully lacerated about the fleshy part of the inside; and on referring to the Birmingham Daily Post of yesterday, we find amongst the arrivals at the hospital:- Charle Watton, 21, Bromsgrove, railway porter, with a compound fracture of one of his legs, occasioned by his having been run over by a goods' train when incautiously crossing the line of the Midland Railway." Of course this was copied from the hospital book, without any reference to the injuries sustained in the feet: but from the description given by those persons at the station who saw the accident, no doubt the poor fellow will be a cripple for life, should ha survive the accident, of which there are serious doubts.

## **BIRMINGHAM DAILY GAZETTE - 23 MARCH 1864**

### **THE ACCIDENT AT THE RAILWAY STATION.**

The porter, Charles Walton, at the \_Bromsgrove Railway Station, belonging to the Midland Railway, who was accidentally run over by a goods train on the afternoon of, Thursday last, died in the General Hospital, Birmingham, yesterday (Tuesday). The deceased, who had not been on duty at the above station for more than six weeks, was much respected by the officials.

## **WORCESTERSHIRE CHRONICLE - WEDNESDAY 23 MARCH 1864**

### **SERIOUS ACCIDENT AT THE RAILWAY STATION.**

On Thursday afternoon, one of the porters, named Charles Watton, who had only been in the company's employ about five weeks, had put on the signal for the "down" goods train, at half-past three o'clock, and after doing so endeavoured to cross the line towards the opposite platform, when he was knocked down by an up train, and the wheels passed over both his feet, as well as his thigh. He was instantly picked up, bandaged, and sent off to the Birmingham General Hospital, attended by Mr. Dixon and other railway officials, in the same train which had run over him. On examination by the medical gentlemen of the Hospital, it was deemed necessary to amputate one foot, which was literally smashed. The other foot was much hurt, but hopes were entertained of saving it. The thigh (in the upper part near the hip) was dreadfully lacerated about the fleshy part of the inside.

### **BROMSGROVE.**

#### **THE LATE RAILWAY ACCIDENT AT BROMSGROVE.**

Charles Watton, 21, railway porter, the young man who met with a serious accident at the Midland station, on Thursday morning last, by the train passing over his legs and thigh (causing a compound fracture to one of his legs), died at the General Hospital, Birmingham, on Tuesday (yesterday) morning, mortification having set in. He leaves a large circle of friends to lament his untimely end