

**John Parker, Slate Merchant, d 21 May 1854**



John Parker was fairly unusual in his longevity.

*Ancestry* has some references to the family:

John Parker, son of Joshua and Mary Parker, was baptised at Kirkby Ireleth on 18 February 1761. (*Ancestry*) He had at least the following siblings: Margaret, baptised 31 December 1758; Anne, baptised 8 May 1764; Joshua, baptised 15 March 1767; Joseph, baptised 17 March 1771; Henry, son of Mary Parker, widow, baptised 20 March 1774. The father, Joshua Parker, had been buried on 3 February 1774. A Mary Parker, of Soutergate, was buried on 4 December 1797. (*Lancashire Online Parish Clerk*)

John Parker married Jane Barrow 14 February 1804 at St. Cuthbert's. Kirkby Ireleth (*Lancashire Online Parish Clerk*)

In the **1841 Census**, living at Soutergate, Kirkby Ireleth, are John Parker (80), Yeoman, and Jane Parker (73).

In the **1851 Census** Jane has died, and John Parker (90) is living at Bridge End, Soutergate, Kirkby Ireleth. He is a widower, a Landed Proprietor, and born in Kirkby Ireleth. He shares the house with another John Parker (42) Nephew, Shoemaker, born Kirkby Ireleth; Isabella Parker (20) Niece, House Servant, born Kirkby Ireleth; and another Isabella Parker (10) Niece, Scholar, born Dalton. *Two Johns and two Isabellas must have made for some confusion!*

There are 3 Parkers on the **Electoral Register for 1855**: John Parker, of Soutergate, Kirkby Ireleth, by dint of his Customary Freehold of house and land at Soutergate; Henry Parker, of Chapels, Kirkby Ireleth, by dint of being Occupier of house and land, rent upwards of £50 per year, at Chapels; and Joseph Parker, of Chapels, Kirkby Ireleth, who owned houses (note plural) at Soutergate. John and Joseph can be found on the **1835 Register**, together with Robert Parker at Pearl Syke.

**SACRED**

TO THE MEMORY OF

**JOHN PARKER**

of BRIDGE END SOUTERGATE in  
this PARISH, *SLATE MERCHANT*. who  
died on the 21<sup>st</sup> day of May 1854.  
Aged 93 Years.

Also of **JANE** his Wife who died on  
the 7<sup>th</sup> day of May 1842  
Aged 74 Years.

*I am here but for to abide  
With my dear partner by my side*

The gravestone makes idiosyncratic use of different fonts and italicization.