

THOMAS CARLISLE

1756-1823

Thomas Carlisle was the second son of Thomas Carlisle and Mary Hollingworth and was christened December 19, 1756 at Messingham, Lincolnshire, England, which is pleasantly situated on a gentle declivity about ten miles northeast of Gainsborough and is bounded on the west by the River Trent.

Thomas Carlisle married Elizabeth Taylor and they resided at Riseholme in the parish of Nettleham. He was a Game Warden by occupation and held a position of great trust. He was tall of stature and was greatly respected throughout the village for his stability and utter disregard for the superstitions of the day--as the following incident would indicate.

The village people were very superstitious and all excited because they said that each night, shortly after midnight, a ghost was walking in the town. Thomas listened to their stories and heard the same report from sources he did not question. He carefully noted the time and place and decided to investigate and find the truth for himself.

One night before the zero hour, Thomas secreted himself behind some rocks near the purported path of the ghost and waited. Surely enough, right after midnight, came a figure clad in white down the path toward him. Just as it came to the place where he waited, he stepped out and grabbed it to find that it was one of the neighbor ladies who had taken to walking in her sleep. Thomas helped her home to safety and the town settled down to its quiet pursuits.

**This was an episode in the life of Thomas Carlisle related to me by my Grandfather, Joseph Carlisle, after he was past 80 years and written by Annie V. C. Thompson.