

## 4 Christopher Wilson: Salvation Army Bandmaster d 1889



Impressive carving on the headstone of a man killed in an industrial accident.

Several other graves are distinguished by high-quality carvings e.g. of sailing ships, or funerary motifs such as clasped hands.



This memorial first attracted my attention because of the magnificent cornet at its head. In the *Barrow News* of 1889 I came across an account of his tragic death (see below).

The gravestone reads:

IN MEMORY OF MY DEAR HUSBAND  
**CHRISTOPHER WILSON**  
LATE BANDMASTER 177<sup>TH</sup> CORPS SALVATION ARMY  
WHO PASSED TO THE HIGHER LIFE AUG 8 1889  
AGED 38 YEARS  
A FIRM FRIEND, FAITHFUL SOLDIER  
AND A DEVOTED HUSBAND  
AWAY FROM HIS HOME AND THE FRIENDS OF HIS YOUTH  
HE HOISTED THE STANDARDS OF MERCY AND TRUTH  
FOR THE LOVE OF HIS LORD AND TO SEEK FOR THE LOST  
SOON ALAS! WAS HIS FALL, BUT HE DIED AT HIS POST  
**ELEANOR SWIFT**  
BORN NOV 18<sup>TH</sup> 1857 DIED JUNE 14<sup>TH</sup> 1933  
ALSO **RICHARD SWIFT**  
DIED FEB 9<sup>TH</sup> 1952 AGED 83 YEARS

*Eleanor Wilson married Richard Swift in 1891.*

Barrow Herald Saturday 10 August 1889

### **A BARROW SALVATIONIST BANDMASTER KILLED**

An inquest was held at three o'clock this (Friday) afternoon, at the Barrow Arms, Cavendish-street, on the body of Christopher Wilson, bandmaster of the Salvation Army, who died at noon on Thursday. The deceased was 38 years of age, and resided at 49 Preston-street, Barrow. He was a sawyer by trade, and was employed at Mr. Walker's saw mill, North-road. On Tuesday morning he was engaged in cutting across a large square piece of wood with a steam circular saw. The wood was on a travelling bench, and was not quite straight to the saw, when deceased struck at it with a tomahawk to put it straight, but the iron head of the tomahawk came into contact with the teeth of the saw, and the handle was violently knocked against his stomach. This occurred at about half-past nine o'clock. He appeared to be badly injured, and was taken home. Medical aid was obtained, but the internal injuries sustained proved fatal.

Evidence was given at the inquest by George Etherington, 231 Rawlinson-street, who witnessed the accident, and also by Captain Thompson, of the Salvation Army, in whose presence the deceased died. At the direction of Mr. Coroner Poole, the jury (Mr. S. Swindlehurst, foreman) returned a verdict of 'Accidental death.'

### **Where is the grave?**

30m past the lighthouse memorial to James Gall.

Walking up the main driveway, pass the Thorncliffe Road/ North Lodge exit on your right. Take the next pathway on the left and follow it as it bends to the right. Take the next left, then first right. The lighthouse memorial is 100m along, next to the path on the left-hand side. The Wilson grave is 30m further on, again on the left, facing Walney Channel.