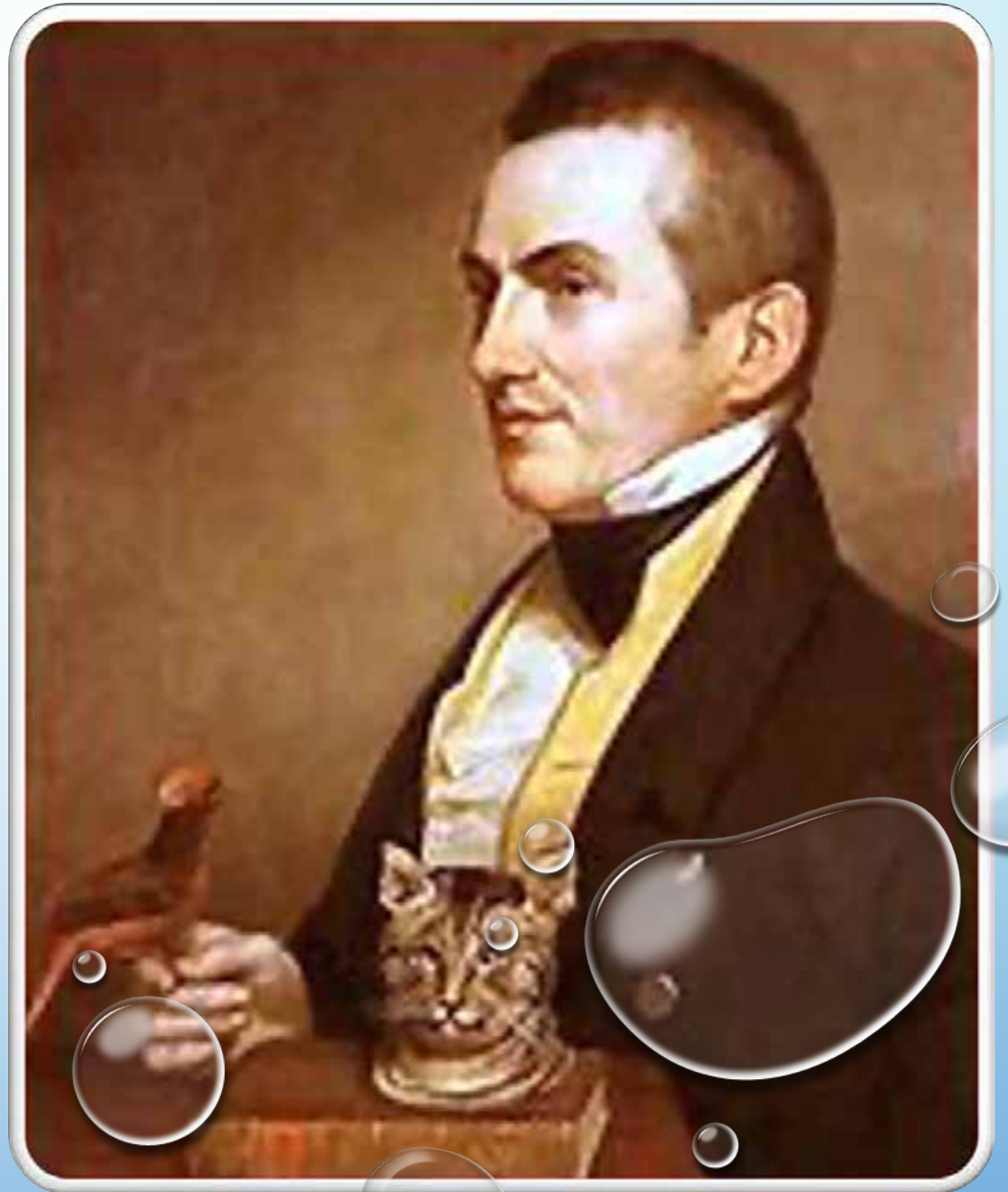


CHARLES WATERTON

BY JOSEPHINE



Walton hall

This was Charles Waterton's home in the early 19th century.

After travelling the world, collecting rare species, Charles Waterton enclosed 250 acres at his home with an eight-foot high wall which ran three miles. This created the world's first nature reserve here in West Yorkshire, he opened his land to the public so they could enjoy wildfowl sanctuary.

Inside Walton Hall he displayed the animals he collected while travelling and these are now on display at Wakefield museum.

Today walton hall is a hotel. The Park is a golf course although there are still several public footpaths.



Childhood

As a young child on a walk with his sister he found a larks nest,he then ate one of the eggs whole.

At age 8 he nearly fell off the roof trying to get to a birds nest.

Charles Waterton spent his early school years from 1792 to 1796 at a newly-established Catholic school in Tudhoe.

Tudhoe was a small farming village. Despite having a strict school master, he still had some typical boyhood adventures. He threw a brick at the school masters cat, rode one of his cows **and had a fight with, and killed a gander.**



Overtown Miscellany (overtown.org.uk)
John S Sargent (26wv)

*CHIPS OF THE OLD BLOCK,
(Great-grandsons of Charles Waterton)*

Adventurous life

His great interest in nature took him to both South and North America

He brought large quantities of the poison curare (wourali), still used in modern medicine here as he thought it might cure rabies.

He invented the Waterton taxidermy method, a way of preserving animals without stuffing them.

He brought a range of animals back that the UK had never seen before, including a crocodile that he had to wrestle to get.



Exhibits at the Museum

Wakefield Museum is now home to Waterton's collection of preserved animals – some of which are made up from different animal parts!

Visitors to Wakefield Museum can take a trip to the extraordinary world of Charles Waterton

The star attraction being the amazing Cayman crocodile which he rode ashore in South America!



DEATH

Charles Waterton Died on the
27th May 1865 Wakefield,
England

The last thing he wrote in his diary was about a
nightingale which you can't see in this country
now.

He was born on the 3rd of June 1782
Wakefield, England

So he was 82 years old

