

Henry & Mary Ayrton, innkeepers for 30+ years

'Ayrton' was a relatively common name in 19th century Craven, with several families living in and around Settle and Rathmell. Our **Henry Ayrton** was born in 1808 in Whittington, south of near Kirkby Lonsdale and, like his dad, began his career as a farmer, working the land around Launds Farm, near Hornby. Henry never knew his mother, **Elizabeth Batty**, as she died at the time of his birth. In 1835 Henry married **Elizabeth Herd/Hird**, a farmer's daughter who came from Kirkby Stephen. They had a daughter **Elizabeth Ayrton** and a son, but the birth of little **James Ayrton** killed his mother, and James followed three months later. Elizabeth and son James are buried together with Elizabeth's parents and two brothers at Gressingham churchyard, just over the river. Henry's brother **Richard Ayrton** and nephew **William Ayrton** also have fine stones in that graveyard. Little Elizabeth was brought up by her Herd/Hird grandparents in Hornby. Elizabeth's brother, **Anthony Hird**, moved to the Settle/Giggleswick area. Anthony, his wife, **Mary Ann Parker** and their descendants lived in Armistead Hall in Lawkland and were award winning cattle breeders. They have a memorial stone in Giggleswick graveyard.



All that bloom will fade and die. In memoriam Anthony Hird of Armistead, Giggleswick, husband of the said Mary Ann, who died July 3rd 1883 aged 73 years. Mary Ann the beloved wife of Anthony Hird of Lawkland Land Ends who died August 11th 1881 aged 70 years. B8/35

By 1840 widowed Henry had also moved to Settle and married **Mary Marsden** from Long Preston. One of their wedding witnesses was **John King** with whom Henry had a business partnership. They rented the New Inn on Duke Street, its grounds and outbuildings and 15 acres of land from the Birkbeck family. Henry ran the carrier (transport) service while John ran the inn. Henry and Mary had seven children over the next nine years.

Henry had generously supported a cricket match between Settle and Gargrave in 1846 [2]. It was a severe struggle on both sides until the *'the Knights of Gargrave were proclaimed conquerors'*. *'The members of the Settle Club (much to their credit) by the good feeling shewn to towards their opponents, almost convinced then that "The pleasure is as great in being beaten as to beat"*. Hmmm!

SETTLE—CRICKET MATCH.—On Thursday, the 3d Inst., a grand cricket match was played between the members of the Settle Cricket Club, and those of Gargrave. The wickets were laid at 10 o'clock in the morning, and after a severe struggle on both sides, till seven in the evening, for the honors of victory, the knights of Gargrave were proclaimed conquerors. After the fatigue of the day, the members of each club spent the evening joyously at Mr. Henry Ayrton's, New Inn, Settle, where an excellent supper was prepared and served up in the first order. Every guest seemed to manifest the greatest satisfaction with the evening's entertainment. The members of the Settle Club (much to their credit) by the good feeling shewn towards their opponents, almost convinced them that—
"The pleasure is as great
In being beaten as to beat."

In 1848, Henry took over the Royal Oak from **Joseph Harger** and was the innkeeper until he died in 1857 after a long illness aged 59. After Henry's death, widow Mary continued to run the **Royal Oak** for a further 25 years. She did a good job, in 1860 *'a very sumptuous dinner provided by the worthy hostess'* for the United Order of Mechanics, a friendly society run along the lines of the Freemasons [2].

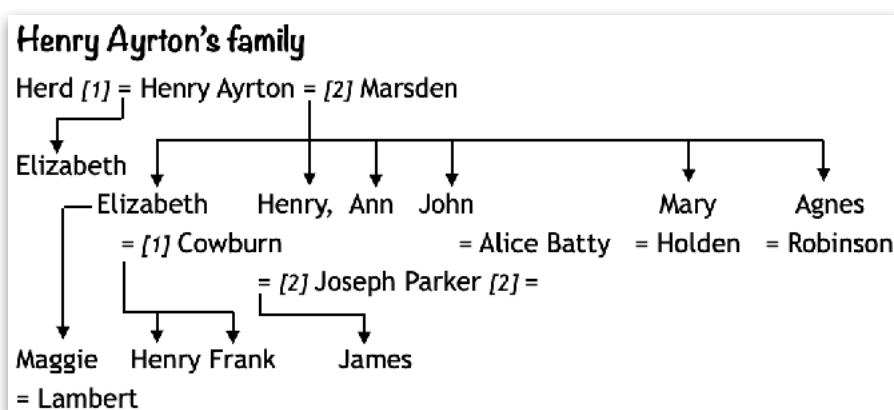
THE U. O. OF MECHANICS.—On Whit-Wednesday, the United Order of Mechanics held their 9th anniversary. The members, to the number of 76, headed by the Rathmell brass band, walked in procession from the Royal Oak to church, where a most impressive sermon was preached to them by the Rev. W. F. Pierson. At the conclusion of divine service the whole of the members, including some few friends, adjourned to the Royal Oak, where a very sumptuous dinner was provided by the worthy hostess, Mrs. Ayrton, in her usual style, and to which, we need scarcely say, ample justice was done. After the removal of the cloth, the

Henry and Mary are buried with their five year old son **Henry Ayrton**, and infant daughter **Ann Ayrton** who died in April 1844. Daughter **Margaret Ayrton**, aged 14, may also be with them.



In memory of Henry Ayrton of Settle who died October 7th 1857 aged 49 years. Also Henry Ayrton, son of the above who died September 27th 1852 aged 4 years, 8 months and 27 days. Also an infant. Also of Mary Ayrton, wife of the above who died Jan'y 20th 1882 aged 76 years, B26

Henry's daughter, Elizabeth Ayrton, from his first marriage moved in with the family after her Hird/Herd grandparents passed away in 1853. She died a spinster, aged 43, and is probably buried in this grave.



Henry and Mary had four other children. Son **John Ayrton** married **Alice Batty**, daughter of **Thomas** and **Alice Batty**, fellow innkeepers, who are buried in the adjacent *grave B24*. The **Royal Oak** and **Crown Hotel** were run by members of the Batty family during the 1880s. John and Alice ran the **Craven Arms**, on the A65 at Giggleswick, for three years, until he died in 1872, aged just 31. John is buried in *Ancient B25* with their infant son, **Henry Ayrton**, also with a memorial stone hidden behind the other side of the tree.



In memory of John Ayrton of Settle who died December 25th 1872 aged 31 years. Also Henry son of John and Alice Ayrton who died February 2nd 1873 aged 6 months, B25

After John died, Alice became the second wife of **Joseph Parker**, a successful farmer at The Lodge, near Anley. Sadly she died at the birth of her third child.

Henry and Mary's fifth child was a daughter called **Elizabeth Marsden Ayrton** which must have been confusing when Elizabeth from his first marriage moved in! This Elizabeth had a fascinating life. When she was 18 Elizabeth gave birth to a daughter, **Maggie Ayrton**. In 1867, aged 22, Elizabeth married **John Cowburn**, the son of another **John Cowburn** who was a attorney and solicitor, in what would have been considered a 'good marriage'. John Cowburn (Snr) died when John (Jnr) was 18 due to infection after an unlucky fall while skating on 'Birkbeck Wear', near Anley.

John Cowburn (Jnr) continued the family business. He worked as an auctioneer, a Registrar of births, marriages and deaths, and a High Bailiff, working for the courts to execute warrants and court orders. The full account of the Cowburns is provided separately, but to summarise, Elizabeth and John had four sons to join Maggie. Sons

John, aged 6, and **Richard**, aged 3, died within a week of each other in December 1873, presumably of an infection. Like his father, John had a premature death after a short illness, aged 39, in 1876. He was buried in Giggleswick churchyard, with his infant sons. His remaining sons, **Henry** and **Frank** were just eight and three at the time.



I.H.S. In loving memory of John Cowburn died Oct. 30th 1876 aged 39 years. Also Richard son of the above died Dec. 17th 1873 aged 3 years. Also John son of the above died Dec. 23rd 1873 aged 6 years. Also Henry son of the above died Feb. 27th 1889 aged 20 years, B8/36

Elizabeth, aged 31, was left with children Maggie (Ayrton) and sons Henry and Frank Cowburn to bring up. To bring in some money, she set up a confectionery business for the Ladies of the district [CH].

NEW CONFECTIONERY BUSINESS AT SETTLE.
MRS. JOHN COWBURN
Respectfully announces to the Ladies of the district that she has commenced the above business in all its branches, on her premises in Duke-street, and hopes to be favoured with a share of patronage. A stock will always be on hand of the regular goods in the trade, and special orders will have prompt attention.
A choice variety of Peak Frean & Co.'s Biscuits.
TEA, COFFEE, & REFRESHMENTS.

John and Elizabeth's sons, Henry and Frank, both had troubled lives, perhaps as a result of their father's death at such a tender age? Henry Cowburn embarked on a career in the navy. Tragically in 1889 when he was just 20, Henry took his own life, because he had failed to pass an examination. This reflects the intensity of expectation on middle class young men and the lack of mental health provision in those days. He was also buried in Giggleswick churchyard, hopefully with his dad and brothers, although his name wasn't added to the inscription – perhaps his death was too shameful to warrant an inscription? Meanwhile, in 1895, Frank married **Mary Grime** whose father **William Grime** had worked as the groom to **John Birkbeck** at Anley. Frank and Mary had a son **Henry Cowburn**, named after Frank's brother. Frank got a job in the London and Midland Bank and was posted to the Pontefract branch. In 1904, Frank was arrested for embezzlement '*having caused his employer considerable trouble*'. After profuse apologies from Frank and his mother, Elizabeth, he was given a lenient sentence of two months imprisonment. Soon afterwards Frank ran away to Toronto, Canada where he died of bronchial pneumonia in November 1906, aged 34 [LSA]. Poor widow Mary brought up little Henry with the help of her sisters and died in 1946, aged 76.

29. Free Coffee Supper and Social Evening in connection with the Women's Liberal Association at Settle.—Death of Mr. Frank Cowburn (late of Settle) at the General Hospital, Toronto, Canada, of bronchial pneumonia, aged 34 years.

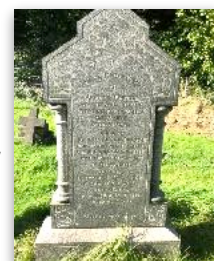
Ten years after John Cowburn's death, in 1886, Elizabeth became the third wife of **Joseph Parker** who ran the Lodge Farm, following the death of his second wife who was Elizabeth's former sister-in-law Alice (Batty) Ayrton. Yes that's right – two Ayrton women that married the same Joseph Parker. Settle is a small place. Elizabeth and Joseph had a son **James Parker** who, tragically was killed during the war. He was a farmer which was was a reserved occupation, but James was persuaded to enlist for the war by the Birkbeck family. James [ph1] died of dysentery on 6th July 1918 in Salonica, Greece aged just 32, leaving a widow and two daughters.



Elizabeth's daughter Maggie Ayrton married **William Henry Lambert**, a railway clerk, who was the nephew of the Settle printer **John Wilcock Lambert**. Maggie and William Henry didn't have children of their own, but the church baptism records tell us that, four years after marrying, William Henry fathered a son, **Frederick Bulcock** with **Frances Amelia Bulcock**. Oops! Frederick was brought up by Bulcock relations and worked as a railway labourer.

Elizabeth died in 1914, aged 69 and was buried with her second husband Joseph Parker and his son (with his first wife), **Joseph Clarke Parker**. Joseph's first and second wives were buried with twin infants in *Ancient E14* and their full story is provided in a separate account.

In Loving Remembrance of Joseph Parker of The Lodge Settle who entered into rest May 2nd 1903 aged 58 years. Also of Joseph Clark Parker son of the above Joseph and the late Mary Parker who died September 3rd 1899 in his 25th year. Also of Elizabeth M Parker widow of the above Joseph Parker who died July 9th 1914 aged 69 years. Perfect Perfect Peace. Old E65



Going back a generation, Henry and Mary's daughter, **Mary Ayrton**, married **George Holden** whose family also have a fascinating account. Perhaps inspired by Mary's father, George went into partnership with his brother, **Thomas Holden**, running a wine and spirit store in the 'Square' part of Duke Street by 1872 [LSA]. For some reason George decided this wasn't for him and they moved to Ingleton where he worked as a cattle dealer. However they retired back to Butterfield House in Rathmell where George died of pneumonia in 1887, aged 47. Mary arranged for him to be buried and commemorated with a fine memorial stone at Rathmell paid for by a substantial estate. Mary died five months later, aged 45, of chronic alcoholism and cirrhosis of the liver and kidneys and was buried separately in an unmarked grave. Oh dear. They didn't have children.



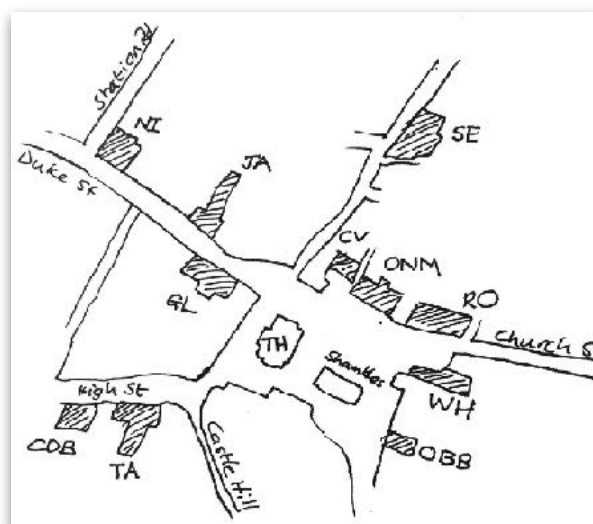
Meanwhile Henry and Mary's youngest daughter, **Agnes Ayrton**, married **Thomas Dawson Robinson**, a labourer, in 1870. His parents, **William Robinson** and **Margaret Dawson** had run the Bridge Inn at Ingleton before taking over the White Horse Inn in Settle, opposite the Royal Oak. They lived at The Folly and then in Chapel Street, bringing up seven children. They both died in 1899, aged 50 and were buried in an unmarked grave, Old DX18.

NI - New Inn on what was then New Road, now Station Road

RO -(Old) Naked Man and Royal Oak, as now

CV - Crown Vaults/Inn

WH - White Horse



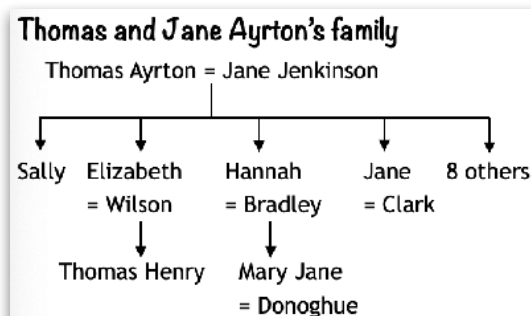
Thomas Ayrton and the incredible line of family graves

In affectionate memory of Thomas Ayrton of Settle, who died June 26th 1881 aged 73 years. Also of Jane, wife of the above who died April 21st 1886 aged 74 years, Anc B17

Thomas was a Settle born son of a carter. His grave is close to those of Henry Ayrton and his son John, but they are not (closely) related. In 1832 Thomas married **Jane Jenkinson**, the daughter of a Settle butcher whose parents died when she was 10. This was an incredibly fertile pairing – they had at least 12 children. Only one other mother in the graveyard produced more children. So Thomas had many mouths to feed and took work wherever he could get it, usually describing himself as a labourer, agricultural labourer, grocer, and, in the last census, a blacksmith.



Amazingly only one son, **Thomas** (one of two named Thomas) died in infancy – sadly there are no burial records for him. Eldest daughter **Sarah (Sally)** was the only child to remain unmarried, the rest maintained large families with working class jobs and some moved away. Unsurprisingly there are several children buried in the *Old graveyard*. Incredibly, as if 12 children was not enough, Thomas and Jane adopted an illegitimate boy called **William Mounsey**, who had been born in Morecambe. William became the father of successful businesses still running in Settle today.



Thomas' infant grandsons **Robert Wilson** (the son of daughter Elizabeth Ayrton and husband Daniel Willson) died in 1874 and **Edward Ayrton** (the son of the second son named Thomas Ayrton) died in 1879 and they may well have been the first occupants of this grave. When Jane died in 1886 she could not be buried with her husband as the Ancient graveyard had become dangerously full and was closed. Instead she is buried in *Old A25* which backs onto Thomas' grave, a sure sign they wanted to be together. In this grave *Old A25*, Jane is with eldest daughter Sally and some other relations. Daughter **Elizabeth Ayrton** married **Daniel Wilson**, an Austwick blacksmith. Their infant grandchildren, **May** and **John Wilson**, by son Thomas Henry Wilson, are in this grave.



Daughter **Hannah Ayrton** married **James Bradley**, a grocer and their family is so interesting they have their own account. Their daughter **Mary Jane Bradley** married **William Donoghue**, a mechanic from Carlisle. Unfortunately, sometime after youngest daughter **Dorothy Donoghue** was born (and died) in 1923,

LABOURER SENTENCED.
 Later in the day a special court was held, Colonel J. Birkbeck presiding, with Mr. J. Harger.
 At this court William Donoghue, general labourer, of 12, Procter's Row, Settle, was charged with absconding from the district on 11 November last, and leaving his wife and two children chargeable to the Poor-law authorities. Defendant pleaded "Not guilty."

William ‘*absconded from the district*’, going to stay with his aunt in Carlisle, leaving his wife with no means of support to bring up the children. He had been out of work for two years. William was sentenced to a month in gaol. Records for him stop after that. Mary Jane [ph3], her son, another **William Donoghue** and their two year old daughter **Hannah Donoghue** are also in this grave. That’s Jane, Sally, William and Mary Jane Donoghue and their infant daughter Hannah and infants May and John Wilson. That’s a full grave by anyone’s reckoning. The stone and inscription were added upon the deaths of Mary Jane Donoghue and her son.

Affectionate remembrance of a dear mother Mary Jane Donoghue who departed this life 5th April 1958 aged 77 years. William Donoghue 1920 - 1967. Jesus I have promised to serve thee to the end, A25



Grave	Occupants
Anc B17	Thomas Ayrton and grandchildren Edward Ayrton and Robert Wilson
Old 25	Jane (Jenkinson) Ayrton, daughter Sally, great grandchildren May and John Wilson, via Hannah (Ayrton) Bradley, Mary Jane Donoghue, daughter of Hannah (Ayrton) Bradley, Mary Jane’s daughter Hannah Donoghue and son William Donoghue
Old BX 25	William Ayrton, Dorothy Donoghue
Old C 25	Jane (Ayrton) Clark, husband Edward Clark, Alice Isabel Clark
Old E 24	James Bradley, his wife Elizabeth Jane (Wilson) Bradley and her parents Daniel Wilson and Elizabeth (Ayrton) Wilson and their infant son Robert Wilson
Old E 25	Hannah (Ayrton) Bradley, hubby James Bradley, daughter Alice Bradley

Other family members also chose to be buried directly behind Thomas’ grave and you can see most of them in the photo above. Thomas and Jane’s son **William Ayrton** is buried with Mary Jane’s daughter **Dorothy Donoghue** directly behind Jane and Sally in the unmarked *Old BX25*.

Thomas and Jane’s daughter **Jane Ayrton** married **Edward Clark**, a shepherd and cattle drover. Jane died at the birth of her sixth child, **Alice Isabel Clark**, who also died aged one. They are buried in *Old C25* directly behind the other three graves and Edward joined them when he died.

In loving memory Jane Clark who died June 21st 1891 aged 41 years. Also of Alice Isabel their daughter who died June 29th 1892 aged 1 year. Also of Edward husband of the above who died March 12th 1920.



The grave *Old D25* contains unrelated people, but *Old E24* and *E25* contain family. *Old E25* contains James and Hannah (Ayrton) Bradley and their spinster daughter Alice, although Alice is not commemorated on the stone.

In Loving Memory of James Bradley died Jany 18th 1899 aged 50 years. Also of Hannah wife of the above died July 8th 1919 aged 73 years. At Rest

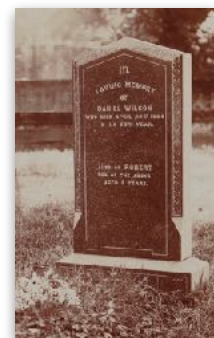
Old E24 contains James and Hannah’s son **James Bradley**, a



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stonemason who became a Corporal in the Royal Engineers. At the time of the 1911 census James was serving in India with the '3rd sappers and miners'. In Portsmouth in 1908 he had married wife **Elizabeth Jane Wilson** who was his first cousin, the daughter of Elizabeth Ayrton and her husband Daniel Wilson who are, unsurprisingly, also in this grave. Elizabeth Jane is in the grave although not commemorated on the stone.

In Loving Memory of Daniel Wilson who died April 23rd 1904 in his 53rd year Also Elizabeth wife of the above died May 3rd 1928 aged 89 (or 85) years Also of Robert son of the above aged 5 years also James Bradley died April 26th 1931 aged 48 years



The grave also commemorates five year old **Robert Wilson**, son of Daniel and Elizabeth who died in 1874 but is buried in the Ancient graveyard. An early photo [ph1] shows the inscription after Daniel's death, carefully leaving enough room for an inscription for Elizabeth when she died.



This account has been compiled as part of the Settle Graveyard Project which has recorded gravestone inscriptions, updated church records and researched the lives of those buried. Life stories can be found on dalescommunityarchives.org.uk, 'settle graveyard project'. The 'Old Settle' family tree on ancestry.co.uk includes the families buried in the graveyard. The project is ongoing and welcomes queries and information on settleresearch@gmail.com. Latest news and events are on the Facebook page 'Settle Graveyard Project'.

With thanks to relation Brenda Staines for her help with the compilation of this account.

Newspaper cuttings by kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Kendal Mercury, 2 – Lancaster Gazette, 3 – Westmorland Gazette, 4 – Lancaster Guardian

ph1 – photo credited to Craven's Part in the Great War by the Craven Community Projects Group, 2006, ph2 – photo credited to the Back in Settle facebook page, posted by Ben Mackenzie, ph3 – credited to family descendants via Ancestry.co.uk, username Teresa Donoghue

CH - with the kind permission of the Craven Herald and Pioneer

LSA – Lambert's Settle Almanac, with the kind permission of the Museum of Craven Life