

William Bilton, a master saddler at the Town Hall

In memory of Mary Bilton who died July 11th 1820, aged 7 years, Sarah Bilton who died March 17th 1822 aged 3 years, William Bilton who died January 29 1847 aged (36) years, Betty wife of William Bilton of Settle and mother of the above who died July 24th 1851 aged 71 years. William Bilton husband of the above named Betty Bilton who died March 28th 1871 aged 91 years. Margaret Bilton who died July 12th 1878 aged 70 years, C21



William Bilton was born in 1780 in Ripon, but had moved to Settle by 1806 when he married **Betty Rigg**. They had six children. Daughters Mary and Sarah died in childhood and are buried in Giggleswick but are commemorated on William's stone. He worked as a saddler in the Town Hall all his life [SC]. William became a churchwarden in 1840 and spent some time working as treasurer and librarian at the 'Subscription Library' in the Town Hall, recorded in a very early 1840 edition of the Settle Almanac [ph1].

SETTLE LITERARY SOCIETY AND NEWS ROOM.

Mr. Bilton, Librarian.

This Society, which is merely a Book Club, established 1770, has a very good collection of Books—it has about 86 Members. Annual subscription £1.—entrance £3. 3s. The News Room adjoining it has four Daily Papers—Subscription £1. 1s. per annum.

In 1856 William was commissioned to make a harnesses for the horse-drawn hearse for Giggleswick Church. *'They are very neat and substantial and do credit to the town.'* [SC] A new house for the hearse was also built, the whole project costing £89 raised by subscription and donations, coordinated by **Stephen Hargraves**. William was paid £20 for his part in it.

WILLIAM BILTON,
SADDLER and HARNESS MAKER,
MARKET PLACE,
SETTLE,

In returning thanks to the inhabitants of Settle and neighbourhood for the very liberal support he has received for the last 58 years, begs leave to inform them, that in addition to the Saddle and Harness business he is combining that of

CARRIAGE PAINTING,
VARNISHING & TRIMMING,

And for that purpose has engaged clever and experienced Workmen from first class London Houses whom he can with confidence recommend.

Manufacturer and dealer in every description of Saddlery and Harness, Horse Clothing, Blankets, Kerseys, Roller, Girth and Brace Webs, Linen and Woollen Checks, Bandage Serges, Saddle Cloths, Goodman's Patent Saddle Cloths, Felt Saddle Cloths, Bidding...

HARNESS FOR THE NEW HEARSE.—We have seen the harness for the new hearse for Giggleswick Church which are in course of construction by Mr. Bilton, Saddler, Settle; they are very neat and substantial, and do credit to the town.

Betty was aged 71 when she died. William was an incredible 91, still working as a saddler and outliving four of his children. He is the oldest man commemorated on a stone in the Ancient graveyard.

Son **William** is buried with them. He had married Dent born **Nanny King** [ph2], daughter of William King who had moved to Langcliffe in 1815 and had more recently been the innkeeper at the Joiner's Arms in Settle. Nanny was the sixth of 11 children. Her sister Margaret married **John Gifford** and she took over their father's inn in Settle. Sister **Mabel** married **Thomas Robinson**, son of the well known surgeon Thomas Robinson, and gave him five children. Thomas was also a surgeon and they lived in Kettlewell. When Mabel died soon after the birth of their last child, Thomas deserted all the children and lived with his new wife. Nancy's sister **Mary** married **James Wilkinson** who worked as a draper and also a solicitor's clerk in Settle. Mary gave him nine children. The brothers worked in farming, many in Mallerstang, south of Kirkby Stephen. Nanny's father was a forward thinking man. When he died he invested his money to give his daughters an income from the interest. Only when the daughters had their allocated amount did the sons inherit.



Settle Graveyard Project

William Bilton followed his dad to become another saddler, but died aged just 36. William and Nancy had three children but youngest daughter Elisabeth died in infancy and is buried in EX25, the infants section of the graveyard. Widow Nanny miraculously had a further daughter Emily four years after William's death, which may have had something to do with her lodger Thomas Holden. Soon afterwards, Nancy and the girls went with son William to Holbeck, Leeds where William found work as a cashier at a railway goods department. Later, they moved to Bradford.

William (Snr)'s son John is buried nearby:



In remembrance of Betty Bilton who died 2nd Feb 1840 aged 25 years. Also of John Bilton who died 18th Feb 1869 aged 53 years. Also of Elizabeth Bilton daughter of the above who died 11th August 1877, aged 37 years. Margaret Elizabeth Bilton granddaughter of the above who died 21st Nov 1865 aged 7 months, Joseph Edward Bilton, grandson of the above who died August 24th aged 11 weeks, Anc D8

John's wife Betty Carr died just a few weeks after the birth of their second child Elizabeth. John brought up his children in the Town Hall helped by his dad and sister, also working as a saddler. He predeceased his dad William by two years. Their daughter Elizabeth died aged 37. She had taken over as the librarian [LSA].

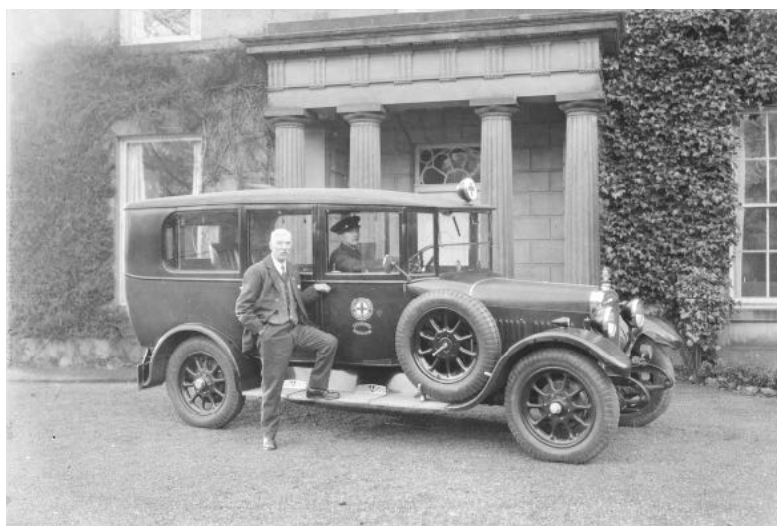
SETTLE LITERARY SOCIETY.

The Library was established in 1770, and contains about 8000 volumes. The entrance fee is £3 3s., and the annual subscription 21s. The number of subscribers is 75. The Library is open from 10 to 4 from October 1st to April 1st, and from 10 to 5 the remainder of the year. Librarian, Miss Bilton.

Mr. Bilton was instrumental in obtaining a motor ambulance for Settle and district and forming the committee to maintain it, and since its inception some twenty years ago, he acted as voluntary transport officer up to the time of his death. Until his health failed about twelve months ago, he travelled with the motor ambulance on all its journeys to and from the various hospitals. He was the founder of the Providence Scheme by which the motor ambulance is maintained, and spent much of his time in collecting subscriptions throughout a wide district.

He was also responsible for the inauguration of the Settle and District Voluntary Hospitals Committee, which has subscribed large sums to the Leeds Infirmary and other hospitals, and it was entirely by his effort that Settle was able to endow a bed at the Leeds Infirmary.

John and Betty's son William Thomas Bilton continued the saddlery business in Settle and also worked as the County Court Bailiff. He worked with *William Field Hook* as assistant Registrar of Birth, Marriages and Deaths. William and his wife Sarah Robinson had seven children, two of these infants are buried in this grave. Their son Arthur Thomas Bilton [ph3] was one of the 'drivers' of the early bicycle ambulances [ph5]. From this start he established the District Voluntary Hospitals Committee to raise funds



Ambulance 1 of 2, photograph by the Horner Studio. Horner Collection©NCBPT (CC-BY 4.0)

Settle Graveyard Project

for and maintain a motor ambulance for Settle. Arthur was the driver of the ambulance had his photo taken in front of the ambulance at Taitlands [ph4]. He was the 'voluntary transport officer' until he died in 1940, aged 69. He was also a member of Settle Brass Band, Settle Orchestral Society and Settle Bowling Club. Arthur's wife **Nicholas Davidson McQueen**, [ph1] from Dumfries, was also an active member of the local branch of the St John's Ambulance Brigade for many years. She became the oldest member of the Mothers' Union at the church. Arthur, his wife Nicholas and only daughter **Janet Frances** are buried together in the New graveyard New17

Ratcliffe, at Stackhouse. Mrs. Bilton, like her late husband, will be remembered for work for the Settle Motor Ambulance, prior to the service being taken over by the State. Nothing was too much for her to do for the comfort of patients, and also the drivers, before starting the journey to Leeds Infirmary. No matter the time of day or night, she had always warm blankets ready for any emergency, and all this work she, like her husband, did voluntarily. Mrs.



In loving memory of Arthur Thomas Bilton born 6 July 1870 died 28 April 1940, also his wife Nicholas Davidson Bilton born 13 May 1867 died 24 December 1957, also their daughter Janet F Bilton died 27 December 1974 aged 79 years, New 17



William Thomas and Sarah's son **Alfred Richard Bilton** ran a grocer's shop in Duke Street, taking over from the Marsden brothers, with his wife, **Sarah Thompson** and two spinster daughters [LSA]. They are buried with daughter **Mary Bilton** in the unmarked *Old EX10* and daughter **Ethel Sarah Bilton** was buried in the unmarked *New LX32*

William Thomas and Sarah's daughter **Frances Mary** ran a dressmaking business [LSA] before she married the brick maker **Cornelius O'Neill**, and son **John William Bilton**, a Settle joiner spent 12 years as bandmaster for Settle Brass Band, being rewarded in 1913 [LSA].



17. Mr. J. W. Bilton was presented with a Purse of Gold and an illuminated Address, subscribed by the patrons and members of the Settle Brass Band, as a small recognition of his services as Bandmaster for the past twelve years.

John William died in 1926, aged 63 and was buried in an unmarked grave with his parents William Thomas and Sarah in *Old FX21*. His first wife **Susanna Allen** had died in 1901, aged 45, and was buried alone in an unmarked grave *EX19* and his second wife **Margaret Murphy** and their daughter **Kathleen** in the unmarked *New JX40*.



This account has been compiled by Sarah Lister as part of the Settle Graveyard Project which has recorded gravestone inscriptions, updated church records and researched the lives of those buried. It has been written in good faith with no offence intended. If I have inadvertently included errors or breached any copyright I apologise and would welcome corrections.

The life stories of people with italicised names have been researched as part of the graveyard project and can be found on [dalescommunityarchives.org.uk/settle graveyard project](http://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

A. R. BILTON,
(Late MARSDEN BROS.),
Family Grocer & Provision Dealer,
Duke Street, SETTLE.

TEA and COFFEE a speciality.
FRESH GROUND COFFEE DAILY.

Prime Hams, Bacon and Smoked Bacon
AT LOWEST PRICES.

**LANCASHIRE CHEESE,
GOOD HOUSEHOLD FLOUR.**

Sole Agent for HOVIS FLOUR.
FRESH YEAST twice a week.
TONGUES and TINNED MEATS.

GRAY DUNN'S and GARR'S BISCUITS.
FAULDER'S, ROBERTSON'S and
GARR, WHITE & Co.'s JAMS.

Thos. Dawson's Syphons & Aerated Waters.

Try our **NOTED SAUSAGES**
(Fresh Friday Noon).

PATENT MEDICINES at reduced prices.

A TRIAL ORDER RESPECTFULLY SOLICITED.

Settle Graveyard Project

queries and information on settleresearch@gmail.com. Latest news and events are on the Facebook page 'Settle Graveyard Project'.

Thanks to Jane Milner, a descendant of the family for her help with this account

Newspaper cuttings by kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Lancaster Gazette, 2 – Yorkshire Evening Post, 3 – Bradford Daily Telegraph

SC – Settle Chronicle, with kind permission of the North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust

ph1 – photo kind permission of North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust, ph2 – photo kind permission of descendant Jane Milner, ph3 – kindly provided by John Reid, ph4 – Image 2022.1.68.6 from the Horner Photographic Studio Collection provided courtesy of the Museum of North Craven Life, ph5 – credited to the Back in Settle Facebook site, submitted by Robert Currie



Images from the Horner Collection are licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).

LSA – Lambert's Settle Almanac, kind permission of the North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust