

John King, innkeeper of 3 Settle inns

John was one of the few Settle innkeepers to be buried without a commemorative gravestone.

John was born in 1800 in Ingleton to **Thomas** and **Agnes King**. Thomas and John's brother Christopher worked as shepherds in Kingsdale between Ingleton and Dent. Perhaps John didn't want a life on the fells. In 1820, when he was 16, John married **Mary Wilson** from Hellifield who was ten years older than him. They settled in Settle and had three daughters and a son, although Agnes, aged eight, and Isabella, six, are buried in the unmarked grave *BX16* in the Ancient graveyard. This left a son John and a daughter Mary.

By 1844, John was in partnership with **Henry Ayrton**, renting the New Inn, its grounds and outbuildings and 15 acres of land. Henry and John both worked as 'carriers' (transporting goods for the inn and its guests by horse and cart) for the New Inn while **William Cork** was the innkeeper. By 1851, Henry Ayrton had become the innkeeper at the Royal Oak, William Cork was the innkeeper at the Old Naked Man and John was the host at the White Horse on the Market Place. In the 1851 census John had a lodger **Alexander Caton** who was an elderly widower and miner. He died suddenly in 1854, after moving out of the White Horse [SC].

SUDDEN DEATH.—On Monday Morning, August 28th, a man called Alexander Caton, whose occupation was that of a well sinker, died very suddenly. He had complained all the Sunday of being ill, and on Monday Morning he was out, and after he went in, he died almost immediately, during the absence of J. Peacock with whom he resided, who had gone for a Surgeon. He had no Medical attendance. An inquest was held at the White Horse, on Tuesday 29th, when a verdict was returned of, died by the visitation of God.

In May 1856 there was another swapping of licenses between the inns [SC,1]. John took over the Old Naked Man from William Cork, William took over the Talbot and John was replaced at the White Horse by **William Towler**.

TO BE LET,
And entered upon at May Day next, all that
INN OR PUBLIC HOUSE,
SITUATE in the Market-place in Settle, with the Stables,
Outbuildings, Yards, and Premises to the same belonging,
now in the occupation of John King.—Application to be made
to **MR. GEORGE HARTLEY**, Solicitor, Settle.
Settle, April 30th, 1856.

TRANSFERS OF LICENSES.—On Tuesday last, the 13th instant, at the Court House, Settle, the licenses of three of the public houses at that place were transferred as follows, viz. :—The "Talbot" from Mr. William Leach, to Mr. William Cork; the "Naked Man" from Mr. W. Cork to Mr. John King; and the "White Horse" from Mr. John King to Mr. William Towler, of Long Preston.—At the same time the license of the "Hart's Head" at Giggleswick, was transferred from Mr. Christopher Brown to Mr. Michael Wray.

John's wife Mary died in September later that year which may explain John's retirement from the trade two years later. In May 1858 [SC] he moved to a residential property known as 'the house of the late Matthias Wildman', next door to the King William Beerhouse which had been run by Charles Duckett. The 'late Matthias Wildman' was a shoemaker who had died in 1845, aged 67. Matthias was the father of *John Wildman*, the Settle publisher. Presumably Matthias had lived in the house for many years so it became known as 'Matthias Wildman's house' even 13 years later!

MAY DAY.—The changes of residence have been rather numerous this year. The following are some of the principal: Mr. Sanderson has entered upon the Naked Man, Inn; Mr. John King having gone to the house of the late Matthias Wildman; Mr. Overing, Tailor, has gone to Mr. Whittam's.

John died in 1864, and is buried in the Ancient graveyard, hopefully with the rest of his family.

John and Mary's surviving daughter, **Mary**, gave birth to a son John, in April 1858. Hopefully the news of this had nothing to do with Mary's death. She moved to Bradford with son John and found work weaving. In 1863 she married **Thomas Ackroyd**, an iron roller who seemed happy to bring up John as well as their own two children.

Settle Graveyard Project

Son **John**? John joined the Royal Artillery, based at Woolwich. Not much more can be found, except there is a 'desertion record' for John King of Settle in 1864. Hopefully this had nothing to do with John (Snr)'s death.

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

JA - Joiner's Arms, later Commercial (Temperance) Inn

GL - Golden Lion, as now, previously on Cheapside

SE - Spread Eagle Inn on Kirkgate

CV - Crown Inn/Vaults

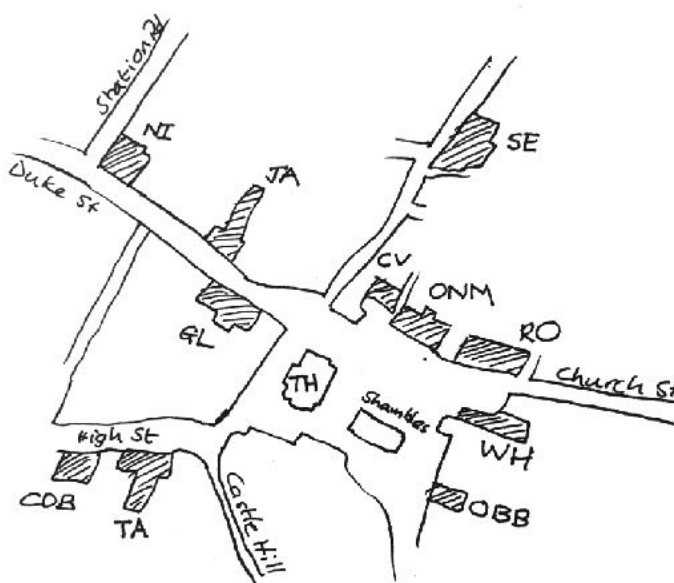
ONM, RO -(Old) Naked Man and Royal Oak, as now

WH - White Horse

OBB - Obadiah Bayne's Beerhouse - the tiny house in the row

TA - Talbot Arms, as now

CDB - Charles Duckett's beerhouse, now the King William guesthouse.



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'.

The life stories of people with italicised names have been researched as part of the graveyard project.

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

Newspaper cutting with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Lancaster Gazette