

The Ralphs are a long standing Settle family. There are at least 88 people with the surname Ralph buried in Holy Ascension graveyard, plus many women named Ralph who married into other families. Here are a few Ralphs from the Ancient graveyard.

William Ralph, a blue flag merchant

William Ralph and his wife **Mary Lord** were first cousins. Their grandparents were **John Lord** from Long Preston and **Mary Bordley** who was the sister of **Francis Bordley**, corn dealer. William's mum was **Margaret Lord** and his dad **Samuel Ralph**, an agricultural labourer who was a first cousin to **Luke Ralph** the blacksmith. Margaret had previously been married to **John Slinger** and had three sons. Her son **John Slinger** is also buried in this graveyard with a fascinating life story. Mary's mum was **Mary Lord** who gave birth to Mary before her marriage to **James Ellel**.

William, born in 1822, started working as a rag dealer but then took up quarrying before becoming a slate flag dealer employing five men (which included his son and step-sons). They lived at 18 Victoria Street in Upper Settle, which is built with some beautiful blue flagstones, of course. Young Mary followed her mum's example and had three sons before marrying William, **Lot Bordley Lord**, **Johnson Lord** and **Christopher Charles Lord**. Christopher Charles (Lord) Ralph, known as Kit, took over the family business [LSA].

Once married to William in 1860, Mary had another four children. Infant Samuel is buried with them and probably son William, aged 16, although he is not commemorated on the stone. This is one of just two stones in area A of the Ancient graveyard.

In loving memory of Samuel the beloved son of William and Mary Ralph of Settle who died December 18th 1862 aged 10 months. Also of the above Mary Ralph who died Nov 1st 1890 aged 62 years. Also of the above William Ralph who died April 14th 1895 aged 74 years, A2.

Mary's son **Lot Bordley Lord** found work as a railway nightwatchman in Todmorden. In May 1870 Lot was found guilty of larceny, stealing two quarts of whisky from barrels and four pairs of boots [1]. For this he was imprisoned for 15 months. However, this didn't cramp Lot's style as within months of his release he married **Eliza Guyer**, the daughter of a shoemaker, in Settle. They moved to Halifax and then Nelson,

WM. RALPH & SON,
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SWARTH MOOR, nr. SETTLE.

Makers of Brewers' and Dyers' Vats,
WATER CISTERNS, LIQUID MANURE TANKS,
* HEADSTONES, FOUNTAINS, AND TABLETS. *

ESTIMATES ON APPLICATION.

All Letters addressed—Victoria Street, Settle.

Christopher Ralph,

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THEFTS BY A RAILWAY WATCHMAN.—At the Todmorden Police Office, on Wednesday, Lot Bordley Lord, a watchman in the employ of the Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway at Todmorden, was charged with stealing two quarts of whisky from a cask under his care for a night on the siding at Todmorden; and also with stealing four pairs of boots from a case also under his charge. A cask containing 23½ gallons of Scotch whisky was sent from the Wiskaw Distillery, on the 21st April, by the Caledonian Railway; at Carlisle and Preston the weight was about the same, but on arriving at Holmfirth, to which town it was consigned, it was found considerably lighter, and on measuring the contents they were nearly a gallon short of the invoiced quantity. Two spile holes were found in the side of the cask. The train in which the cask was conveyed from Preston was under the prisoner's care for the night on a siding at Todmorden, and on his cupboard being searched a bottle containing about a quart of whisky was found, and there were also found two gimlets, which were of the same size as that by which the cask had been bored.

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Lancashire. Their daughter Maud died in 1895, aged 6 and was buried in Giggleswick with three other children who predeceased Lot and Eliza. Lot and Eliza and buried close to the children in Giggleswick graveyard with a matching gravestone, B8/23 and 29.

In loving memory of Eliza the beloved wife of Lot Lord of Nelson, late of Giggleswick, who died January 18th 1912 aged 64 years. Also of the above Lot Lord who died Oct. 31st 1918 aged 69 years.



In loving memory of Maud daughter of Lot & Eliza Lord of Nelson who died Nov. 17th 1895 in her 7th year. Also of William Frederick their son who died March 5th 1897 in his 17th year. Also of Tom their son who died Nov'r 12th 1899 in his 27th year. Also of James Henry their son who died August 22nd 1912 aged 26 years, B8/29

Mary's son Johnson Lord, a labourer is buried in the unmarked *Old EX71*. William's other sons and step sons continued working in the trade. Son Edwin, a quarryman is buried in *Old grave H46* with his two wives.

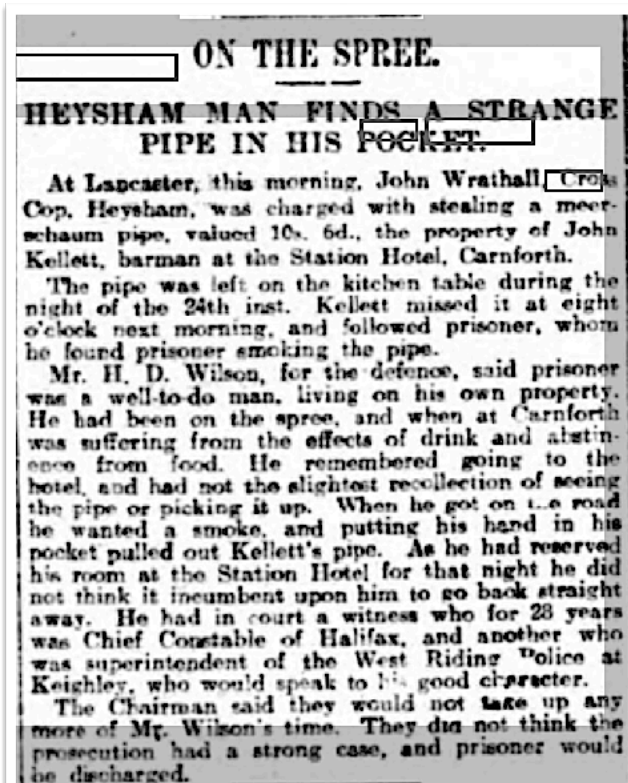
In Affectionate Remembrance of Agnes Ann the beloved wife of Edwin Ralph of Settle. Died October 3rd 1916 aged 52 years. At Rest. Also of the above Edwin Ralph died February 1st 1926 aged 62 years. R.I.P. Also Eliza his wife died September 24th 1955 aged 86 years



William and Mary's daughter **Mary Jane Ralph** married **John Wrathall**, the son of a farmer in Chapel le Dale near Ingleton. John worked as a grocer [LSA] and they lived next door to Mary Jane's half brother Kit.



During the 1890s John and Mary Jane moved to Heysham - perhaps for health reasons? They didn't have children of their own, but Doris Ralph, daughter of Kit lived with them. In 1906, in a moment of madness, John found himself on the wrong end of the law after mistakenly picking up a pipe belonging to the landlord of the Station Inn at Carnforth [2]. This may have contributed to their decision to emigrate to New Zealand where they lived into their 70s. Niece Doris moved back in with her parents and became an elementary schoolteacher in Settle.



The new graveyard contains the remains of **John Edmund Wrathall** and his wife Jane in **New K68**. John Edmund is probably distantly related to the John Wrathall. Both their ancestors come from Thornton in Lonsdale going back to the mid 1700s.



Luke Ralph, blacksmith

Luke was the second son of **Matthew Ralph** and his second wife **Nanny Ayrton**, born in 1799. Matthew and Nanny and Luke's half brother, John, died in 1813, probably of contagious disease when Luke was just 14.

In 1828, Luke married **Agnes Harrison** from Thornton in Lonsdale. *Catherine Gifford* and one of the *John Bullocks* were witnesses. Poor Agnes died six months after the birth of their first child **William**, who died when he was 10. In 1831, Luke married **Elizabeth Capstick** from the Clapham family of blacksmiths. Her youngest brother **William Capstick** had a successful smithing career in Settle. Perhaps Luke learnt his trade from the Capsticks? They lived right at the top of Church Street just below the Market Place.

Their son **James** died in 1840, aged six, (just a couple of months before his half brother William) but Elizabeth had a daughter **Agnes** who survived. Luke died in 1849, aged 49, when little Agnes was just seven. Elizabeth moved to the cheaper houses on Spread Eagle Street (Kirkgate) and ran a confectionery business with some lodgers to provide income.

Luke, both wives, two sons and a grandson are commemorated with a showcase inscription, which we can probably attribute to Elizabeth:

Sacred to the memory of Agnes, wife of Luke Ralph of Settle who died March 13th 1830, aged 29 years. Also to the memory of James, son of Luke and Elizabeth Ralph of Settle who died February 3rd 1840 aged 5 years. And of William, son of Luke and Agnes Ralph, Settle who died April 25th 1840 aged 10 years. And of Luke Ralph their father, who died March 19th 1849 aged 49 years.

*My sledge and hammer both declined,
My bellows they have lost the wind,
My fire extinct, my forge decayed,
and in the dust my vice is laid.
My coals have spent, My iron gone,
My nails are drove, my work is done.*



Also Elizabeth Relict of the above died June 19th 1879 aged 74 years. And of William Ralph Briscoe, grandson of the above, born July 6th 1864, died December 20th 1870.

First wife Agnes died in 1830, before this graveyard was opened and so was buried at Giggleswick. Sons William and James who died in 1840 were buried at Giggleswick, probably with Agnes. So this grave contains Luke, Elizabeth and their grandson.

Daughter Agnes may have been the only surviving child, but her choice of husband transformed the lives of the Ralph line. In 1863, she married **John Jonathan Briscoe** from Kettlewell. John was the son of a wealthy Kettlewell farmer **William Briscoe** who had links to the *Bolland* family. William and his wife Sarah were so well

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regarded that they have a commemoration plaque inside Kettlewell church.

John had come to Settle for an apprenticeship with the successful chemist *William Shepherd*. John worked as a chemist in Settle before moving to Leeds and then South Africa. Little **William Ralph Briscoe** buried in the grave was the eldest of four children. Son **John Edward** went to Giggleswick school, trained as a surgeon and then had a military career, serving in numerous wars. He survived until he was 78.

Daughter **Sarah Helen** married her first cousin **William Bolland Briscoe**, a land surveyor. They emigrated to New Zealand. They had one son, Noel, who was killed in the war in New Zealand in 1918, aged 23. Daughter **Catherine Annie** established a boarding house for professionals in London. One lodger, **Arthur George**, an iron manufacturer married her and they lived in the Isle of Wight.

Agnes spent her last days in the Isle of Wight with daughter Catherine whilst husband John was in South Africa.



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.

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

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