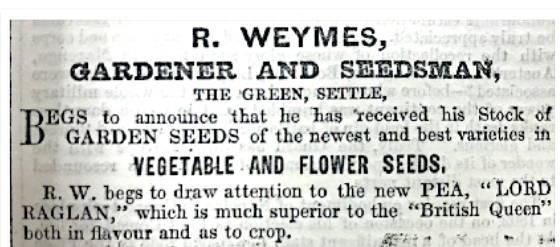


## Robert Weymes, the gardener to the Stansfeld family

19th century houses didn't have domestic gardens as such; families kept pigs and wildfowl in back yards for a bit of extra food. 'Gardeners' worked in the grounds of the large estates – think Capability Brown in Settle. As gravestones show, despite being in service to someone else, this was a lucrative occupation.

**Robert Weymes**, born in 1812, named a variety of birth places throughout his life including Northamptonshire, Westmorland and London! In 1845 he married **Ann Saville** from Heworth, York, and their first child, **Louisa** was born at Kilnwick Percy, a small village in the grounds of the Kilnwick Percy Hall (now a Buddhist meditation centre). The current building was completed in 1845 and Robert was employed as a gardener, probably to help establish the gardens.



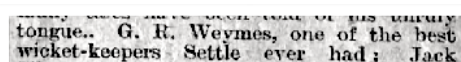
Robert moved to the impressive Cowling Hall near Colne, working as Head Gardener. By 1853, son **George Robert** was born in Settle. Robert ran his own business as a gardener and seedsman, living at Green Head in Upper Settle [SC]. By 1857 they had moved to Chapel Street and could afford a servant, probably linked to Robert's appointment as gardener to **George Stansfeld** at Ashfield on Duke Street.

*In affectionate remembrance of Robert Weymes of Settle who died Feb 2, 1868 aged 54 years. The Lord is my shepherd I shall not want. Also Mary Louisa Agar niece of R & A Weymes who died June 17 1872 aged 22. years. Her end was at peace. Also of Ann, widow of the above who died June 8 1885, aged 74 years. Rest in the Lord, B2*



Robert and Ann's daughter, **Louisa**, had the honour of working as nursemaid to the family of **Reverend Hogarth Swale**, the first vicar of the church at Ingfield Hall before she married a carpenter **James Aitkins**. James became the 'estate carpenter' at Bolton Abbey.

Robert and Ann's son, **George Robert Weymes** was 'one of the best wicket keepers Settle ever had' [CH]. He became a plumber and married **Alice Ann Overing**, a tailor's daughter - see below. Alice died, aged 37, after the birth of her third son and is buried in the *Old grave E39* all by herself.



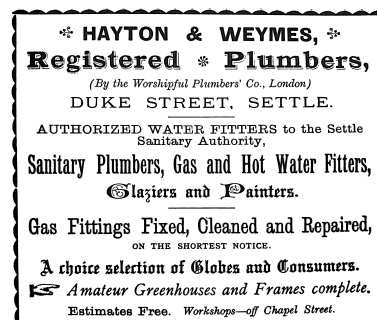
*In Loving Memory of Alice Ann the beloved wife of Geo. R Weymes of Gisburn, born March 4th 1862 died April 29th 1899. Thy Will Be Done, Old E39*



After Alice died, George went into business with **William Hayton** who was the son of **John Hayton** the bookbinder [LSA]. George married again and his new wife **Margaret Tebay** helped him bring up the children in Clitheroe.

Robert and Ann also brought up their niece, **Mary Ann Louisa Agar**. She has her own grave and gravestone. Mary Ann was born in Sheriff Hutton, York, the youngest of five children of **Ann Saville** and **James Agar**, an agricultural labourer. Mary Ann was less than a year old when her mum died in 1851 and still only four when her dad died in 1854.

So Mary Ann Louisa was brought up by her aunt, **Ann Weymes**, in Settle. In 1871, Mary Ann Louisa worked in the grand Hanover



Square in Leeds with her cousin **Elizabeth Ann Saville**. They were 'waiting maids' to **Mrs Sarah Charlesworth**, the mother of **Charles Henry Charlesworth**. Charles had established himself as a solicitor in Settle and is buried in the *Old graveyard*. Mary Ann Louisa died a year later, aged just 22.



Mary Ann's brothers all survived and she was clearly in touch with them after their parents' death. Her brother, **Saville**, married **Margaret Ann Knowles** in Settle in 1872. Margaret was the daughter of **Mary (Harger) Knowles** who had died at Margaret's birth. Margaret was brought up by relations. Saville, a gardener, and Margaret lived in Dringhouses, in York. Saville won awards for his turnips and celery.

Mary Ann's bother **Thomas Saville Agar** died suddenly at the age of 53 from exhaustion after a life working in a grain warehouse [1]. Some families just don't have much luck.

**Death from Exposure near West Hartlepool.**  
—An inquest was held at West Hartlepool yesterday afternoon on the body of Thomas **Saville Agar** (53), late foreman in a grain warehouse at West Hartlepool. Deceased, who had been suffering from influenza, resided in Sunderland-street. He left his home for a walk on Saturday morning, and later the same day was seen wandering in a field near Dalton Piercy, about four miles from West Hartlepool. He was afterwards seen to get over a hedge into another field and sit down. Nothing more was seen or heard of him until about nine o'clock on Sunday night, when his dead body was found in a field belonging to Mr Dobson, farmer.—Mr John Frizzle, retired farmer, said he found deceased lying on his back. He was then dead, and the body quite cold. There were no marks of violence on the body.—Dr. Biggart said he was of opinion that death was due to exhaustion, caused by exposure to the weather.—The jury returned a verdict to that effect.

## John Overing, tailor

John, born in 1823 in Airton, was the only son of carpenter **Timothy Overing** and **Ann Ell** who died soon after John's birth. Timothy remarried and had several other children. Timothy, via his sister **Ellen Overing**, was the uncle of **John Preston** who ran the Joiner's Arms in Duke Street, Settle for decades.

By the time of the 1841 census 17 year old John was serving an apprenticeship with Thomas Walker in the Market Place (on the site of the current Coop) and, according to adverts [SC, LSA], had set up his own drapery business by 1843.

In 1844 John married **Elizabeth Howarth** from Prestwich, Lancashire who gave him five sons and daughter Alice (who married **George Robert Weymes**, above) while they lived in Chapel Street. The first two sons, **John** and **James** died in infancy. A further son named John also died in infancy. Sadly a 50% infant mortality rate was not unusual in those days.

John ran a successful business with apprentices working for him at the time of each census return. His apprentices included **Robert Hamilton**, son of Annie who married **James Twisleton**.

By the time of the 1861 census John was working from a property in Duke Street near the Golden Lion. His neighbours for many years were ironmonger **George Ambler** and banker **Frank Ellis**. In 1874 John and neighbour George Ambler's

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Prepare for Easter, Whitsuntide, and Summer Clothing, at

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Where there will be found upwards of a hundred Suits of different sizes and shapes; likewise a good choice of Woollen Cloths of every description, Fancy Trousers Cloths; also a good stock of Silk and Felt Hats of the newest designs, Caps, Neckties, Shirts, Collars, and Ladies' Stays.

All orders treated with despatch.

### SETTLE.

**PROPERTY SALE.**—The mania for acquiring house property in Settle has hardly yet shown signs of subsidence, as was proved by the sale of three shops in Duke street on Monday evening. Mr. John Overing and Mr. George Ambler purchased the premises they occupy, and Mr. William Dawson was the purchaser of the curriers shop, occupied by Mrs. Addyman. The property realised something over £1,500, which is almost twice the amount it was valued at about 10 years ago. Mr. W. Hartley acted as solicitor for the vendor, and Mr. John Cowburn was the auctioneer.



businesses were sufficiently successful to enable them to purchase their properties in a mania for buying houses [2]. The auctioneer was **John Cowburn**.

John and his sons **William** and **Arthur** were active members of the Liberal Club [4].

John died in 1885, aged 61 and is buried in the Ancient graveyard in an unmarked grave, hopefully with his three infant children. It's surprising he wasn't given a gravestone by descendants, especially as he left a sizeable estate.

So what happened to their remaining sons?

William was a fine cricketer and so was probably good friends with brother-in-law George Robert Wymes. There are numerous reports of William's success especially as a bowler. This is typical [2]. The report was rather generous – Settle were well and truly beaten on this occasion.

William continued his father's business in Duke Street and looked after mum Elizabeth until she died in 1914, aged 90! William married **Sally Lund** and they had two daughters. Sally died after the birth of the second in 1911, so William brought up the girls alone. A son, **Alfred**, had died in infancy. Music was important to this family and William founded and led the Settle Choral Society. Daughter **Olive Overing** was a talented pianist, having been taught by **Fred Lord**, the church organist. She accompanied the early silent movies projected in Settle and had to adapt the style of her playing to suit the mood of the film - lively, sad, tense etc. That takes some skill! She was well acquainted with Dr **Charles William Buck** and joined his musical evenings, occasionally joined by composer, **Edward Elgar**. William was also known to make an 'Ulster' coat for Dr Buck. Olive was trained to sing by **Mary Benson** who dominated the Amateur Operatic Society for years. Olive later married **Sidney Marson**, a wireless radio engineer who came from Leeds. They lived in Kirkgate in Settle.

William died in 1926, aged 77 and is buried in the unmarked grave *Old DX21* with wife Sally, infant son Alfred and mum Elizabeth.

Son Arthur was a clever lad. Several reports celebrate him winning prizes in spelling bee competitions [CH]. After an education at Giggleswick School Arthur also entered his

**LIBERAL CLUB.**—The 18th annual general meeting of the members of the above club was held at club, on Monday last. Mr. F. Holmes presided, and there were present about 50 others. The treasurer's report showed the Club to be in a good position. There is an increase of members during the year. The number on the register is 112. A good selection of papers and periodicals was made for the next six months. The library proves a great attraction. During the year 1413 books have been issued, renewal not being counted as separate issue. J. A. Farrer, Esq., was elected President. Mr. Charles J. Lord was re-elected Hon. Secretary, and Messrs. W. and A. Overing were elected Treasurers. General and Registration Committees were elected. The following were elected Librarian:—Messrs. R. Clark, A. Overing, Wm. Gyte, H. Roberts, J. Thwaites, James Butler, John Overing, and Edward Lord.

#### CLAPHAM.

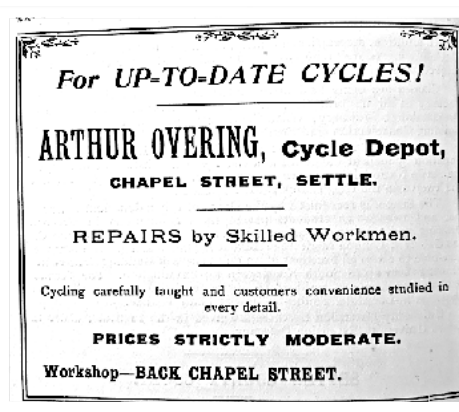
**CRICKET.**—CLAPHAM v. SETTLE.—A cricket match was played at Clapham on Saturday, the 20th inst., between the Clapham and Settle Clubs. It was a well contested game, ending in favour of Clapham on the first innings. The bowling of W. Overing and Lister was good, being continually on the spot. Mr. Lister's batting was very good. The fielding was good, and some capital catches were made on both sides. The following is the score:—

#### CLAPHAM.

1st Innings.		2nd Innings.	
Rev. T. H. MacGill b W.		st G. Wymes b D.	
Overing .....	10	Bordley .....	3
Lister b W. Overing .....	16	b W. Overing .....	23
E. Brooks c E. G. Robinson			
b W. Ralph .....	14	b Bordley .....	1
T. Effit b W. Overing .....	5	b Overing .....	0
I. Grime c W. Hayton b W.			
Overing .....	2	run out .....	0
R. J. Grieve b W. Overing	0	c Ralph b Bordley ..	7
T. Faraday b W. Overing ..	2	c Overing b Robinson	3
W. Dobson b D. Bordley ..	4	c Ralph b Overing ..	3
Hall run out .....	0	b Overing .....	5
W. Tennant b W. Overing ..	0	not out .....	4
J. Harrison not out .....	0	b Overing .....	0
Extras .....	5	Extras .....	1
Total .....	58	Total .....	50

**SPELLING BEE.**—One of these popular entertainments was given under the auspices of the Scaleber Lodge of Good Templars, in the Mechanics' Hall, on Friday evening, the 17th inst. Mr. Brockbank acted as both referee and interrogator, and performed the arduous duties of his office to the complete satisfaction of all. The ladies carried all before them, the first prize being won by Miss Elizabeth Leeming, and the second by Miss Jane Isabella Preston. In a second tournament, the first prize fell to Mr. Arthur Overing, and the second to Miss Polly Harger. Several other contests were engaged in, and a very pleasant evening was enjoyed. The dictionary adopted as a standard was Nuttall's (Warne's edition).

father's business. By the time of the 1901 census Arthur had become a cycle dealer – they were becoming very popular in the early 1900s. By 1911 he was an 'agent and traveller' in Barnoldswick. During the 1890s he sold garden seeds [LSA]. Arthur also worked as a full time correspondent for several North Ribblesdale newspapers.



Arthur was also a talented musician, being clarinetist of 'more than local repute', leading the Settle Amateur Orchestra and being organist at Holy Ascension Church. He was also secretary for the Craven Vocalists. During the war Arthur was a shell inspector at Woolwich, Blackburn and Manchester for which he received a good service medal from Lloyd George.

In 1876 Arthur married Mary Whitfield from Dent and this was to be a long and happy relationship. They had four sons and three daughters although, again, three sons, Matthew, William and an unnamed son died in infancy and are buried in the Ancient graveyard. Two of the daughters, Elizabeth and Johannah were twins.

Arthur and Mary were able to celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary [3] just a few years before they died, in January 1939, within hours of each other. They were buried at the same time in Barnoldswick [3].



Their son John Whitfield Overing, another tailor, married firstly Ann Moore, the sister of Rathmell's John Moore and then Blanche Duxbury, the daughter of the Settle oatcake maker William Duxbury.

This relic of 'Overing and Sons' was found in an antique shop in Newark in January 2024! Posted on the Back in Settle Facebook site by Jill Rushton

## Settle Graveyard Project



*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](http://Ancestry.co.uk) includes the families buried in the graveyard. The project is ongoing and welcomes queries and information on [settleresearch@gmail.com](mailto:settleresearch@gmail.com). Latest news and events are on the Facebook page 'Settle Graveyard Project'.*

*Newspaper cutting with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Daily Gazette for Middlesborough, 2 – Lancaster Gazette, 3 – Leeds Mercury, 4 – Lancaster Guardian*

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

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

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