

## Entrepreneur William Cork - meat, wigs and inns - anything really

William Cork, born in 1790, was the son of a Skipton draper. He moved to Settle by 1810 to marry his first wife **Elizabeth Charnley** who gave him four children before she died. He worked as a butcher. By 1821 William had become a hairdresser and wig maker in the days when gentlemen could not be seen without their (very itchy) wig, such as the one pictured and as described in the diaries of William Lodge Paley [ph2].

In 1835 William married **Jennett Moorhouse** who was 20 years his junior. In Victorian society it was quite acceptable for men to marry second wives who were much younger in order to have further heirs. However, Jennet didn't have children.

Nov. 1.—Mr. Cork brought me a new wig for which paid him one guinea, and he cut my hair bare and then put on new wig. Cousin Atkinson brought me some

He smoked a long clay pipe which he sucked long and loudly; wore a wig made by Sylvester Cork, of Settle, and was always very particular how he took off his hat in Church. He went to Skipton



**William Cork,**  
**PERFUMER,**  
 Hair Cutter, Ornamental Hair Manufacturer,  
**DUKE-STREET, SETTLE,**  
 And dealer in the following Genuine Articles,  
 VIZ.

Atkinson's Curling Fluid	Genuine Bears Grease
Rowland's Maccassar Oil	Best Hair Powder
Rowland's Kalydor	Stand Dressing Combs
Best Rose Oil	White Dressing Do.
Cold Cream	Side Do.
Old Brown Windsor Soap	Back Do.
Coca-Nut Oil Do.	Tortoiseshell Do.
Transparent Do.	Pocket Do.
Naple Do.	Small Tooth Do.
Banduna Do.	Tail Do.
Almond Do.	Shaving Boxes
Rose Do.	Shaving Brushes
Ceylon Do.	Hair Do.
Windsor Do.	Clothes Do.
Lavender Water	Nail Do.
Pomade Double a la Rose.	Tooth Do.

N. B. Private Apartments for Hair Cutting.  
 [WALKER, PRINTER.]

As the 19th century wore on wigs became less fashionable and so William diversified his business. In the 1837 trade directory William was listed as a hat manufacturer but also advertised as a perfumer, hair cutter and ornamental hair manufacturer [ph1]. By the 1840s, entrepreneur William had another new business, taking on the tenancy for the New Inn and then for the Old Naked Man.

In 1856, William and several other innkeepers including *William Towler* and *John King* swapped their licenses for reason. William moved from the New Inn to The Talbot [1].

**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.

Two years later William died, aged 67. Jennett was the sole executor of his substantial estate — William made a good living through his enterprise. Jennett lived for another 17 years and spent the rest of her living with other families including Margaret, the widow of bank manager *Frank Ellis*. In census returns Jennett described herself as 'formerly innkeeper'.

William is buried with his first wife in Long Preston and Jennett is buried in an unmarked grave somewhere in our Ancient Graveyard.

William's son, by his first marriage, **Sylvester** also became a hairdresser and wig maker, living in the Market Place with his unmarried sister **Elizabeth**.



## Settle Graveyard Project

His shop was behind the Shambles opposite the Town Hall (with white window blinds) [ph1].

William's daughter Jane married the solicitor **John Cowburn** in 1832 and gave him at least six children. They lived in Duke Street opposite the end of Station Road before moving the exclusive residences of The Terrace on the opposite side of the road as their wealth increased.

John was an educated man so could become an attorney and solicitor. During the 1840s, he took advantage of the opportunities of 'railway mania'. In partnership with Edward James Norris, 'Cowburn and Norris' was set up to manage the business of a railway planned between Lancaster and Newcastle upon Tyne [2]. The reality was that a third of all planned railways failed, including this one. John and Edward had a few problems and eventually John became insolvent [3]. The wrangling over his estate continued several years after his death. Despite all of this, John must have been well regarded as he had been elected to the prestigious position of High Constable for the West Riding in 1847, to oversee provision for keeping order. John had immense responsibility in this post.

In 1850 John was taken to court by *John Johnson Hartley*, a local ironmonger for failure to honour a rather substantial promissory note [1]. Oops.

John had a most unfortunate death in 1855 whilst skating on the ice at 'Birkbeck Wear', nearly Anley [4]. The severity of 19th century weather was frequently commented on by newspapers. As was so common in those days, John appeared to die from the infection picked up in the accident rather than from the injury itself. John was just 44 and died without leaving a will, which is rather careless for a solicitor.

John's widow Jane moved to much cheaper housing in Kirkgate. She was a widow for over 50 years before dying in 1906 aged 93. John and Jane are buried in Gisburn with John's parents.

Daughter **Sarah Jane** became the second wife of **Darius Ineson** who ran his tinning and brazier business at the end of Cheapside in the Market Place [ph1]. Sarah Jane was nearly 30 years younger than Darius which may explain why they went to Scarborough to get married. Sarah Jane Ineson is buried in Holy Ascension graveyard with her sister Hannah who remained a spinster in grave OLD L41.



*In loving remembrance of Annie Cowburn (of Settle) who died Nov 21<sup>st</sup> 1926 aged 47 years. Also Sarah Jane Ineson who died April 2<sup>nd</sup> 1937 aged 88 years. The day thou gavest Lord is ended*

LANCASTER & NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE  
RAILWAY.  
RUMOURS having been industriously circulated to the prejudice of this undertaking, we beg to assure the Applicants for Shares that the intention to Abandon the Line never existed, and that every exertion will continue to be made to bring the matter before the ensuing Parliament.  
**COWBURN & NORRIS,**  
Solicitors to the Projected Company.

On the 7th Aug. 1850 John Cowburn, having become insolvent, executed a deed whereby he assigned all his personal estate, and covenanted to convey all his real estate to the defendant John Ellis, in trust for the benefit of his creditors. In the month

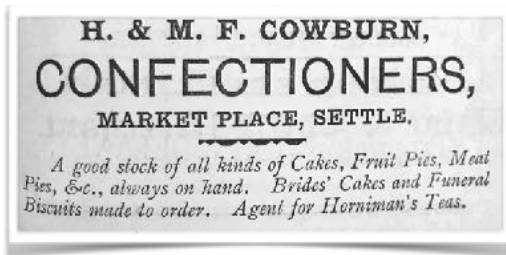
HARTLEY v. COWBURN.  
The case was not defended. Mr. Martin and Mr. Overend were for plaintiff. Plaintiff, Mr. John Johnson Hartley, is an ironmonger at Settle, and defendant is a solicitor at the same place. This action was for a promissory note, value £425, with interest, dated 9th December, 1847. The signature of defendant was proved by Mr. Seed, clerk with Mr. Pearson, Kirkby Lonsdale, and the jury brought in a verdict for £425, with £51 interest.

MELANCHOLY ACCIDENT. On Monday, February 12th, an accident, attended with fatal consequences, occurred to John Cowburn, Esq., of Settle. He had been skating on Birkbeck Wear, and was about to finish, when he unfortunately went against a piece of rough ice, and fell heavily. His cheek was cut through under the eye. He was out on the Tuesday and Wednesday, but on the following Tuesday he was no more. It is supposed that Erysipelatous inflammation had spread fatally to the brain. He held the offices of Clerk of the County Court and Chief Constable for the Division of Staincliffe West, for which offices his Son is a candidate.



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Jane's daughters Hannah and Mary Frances ran a confectionery business [LSA] until Mary Frances married a cattle dealer, Stephen Lowis, from Shipley.



John and Jane's son, Charles Henry Cowburn, born in 1846 had a less conventional life. His father died when Charles was just nine, which may have had long term effects. In 1866 he worked as a solicitor's clerk in Colne.

He was arrested for stealing and, controversially was not granted bail. He was found not guilty on this occasion [4].

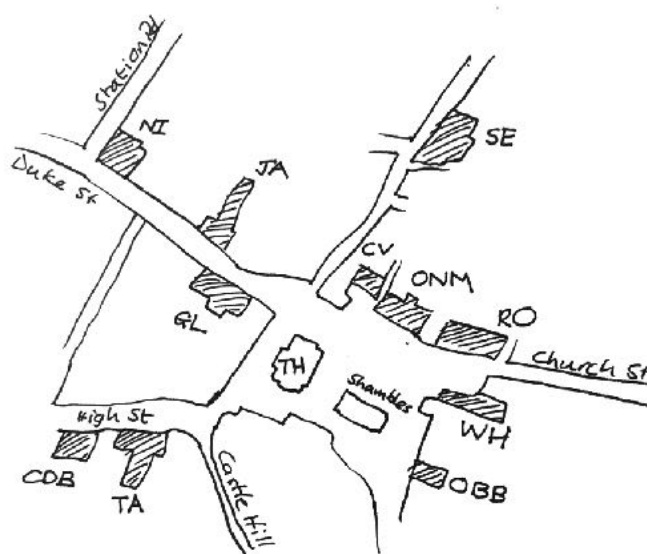
**PRESTON SESSIONS.**—Yesterday, Charles Henry Cowburn, a clerk in Mr. Waddington Hartley's office, at Colne, was tried for stealing from Senes Postlethwaite, the sum of 13s. 11d., on the morning of the 5th of February instant, at the house of Mrs. Wilson, No. 6, Back Winn Hill, Burnley.—Mr. John Addison, instructed by Mr. Francis Hartley, of Burnley, solicitor, defended the prisoner; and Mr. Townley Knowles prosecuted. The trial lasted about three hours, and the jury almost immediately returned a verdict of not guilty, which was received by the whole court with acclamation. This case will be in the recollection of our readers, as being the one in which the committing Justices refused to admit the prisoner to bail, though the bench was told by his attorney that he had a good defence, and that the young man had a respectable character, and occupied a respectable position in life.

**EMBEZZLEMENT BY A CLERK.**  
At the City Police Court, Charles Henry Cowburn, a clerk, was charged with embezzling £22, the moneys of his employers. The prisoner's employer, Mr. W. Holmes, John Dalton-street, was agent for some houses in Higher Broughton; and on the 23th of June Mr. S. Walton, son-in-law of the tenant of one of these houses, called at Mr. Holmes's office and paid a quarter's rent, amounting to £22. The prisoner, who was at the time under notice to leave, received the money and did not account for it. Shortly afterwards the prisoner left the service of Mr. Holmes, and went to two other of the tenants, from whom he received, on the false pretence that he was instructed by his employer to collect the rents, the sum of £40. With the whole of the money thus obtained he absconded, but on the 10th inst. he was taken into custody by Inspector Shandley, at Denbigh, where £40 of the money was found concealed in a flower pot in the house where he had been living. The prisoner was dealt with on the first offence only, and was summarily committed for six months.

However in 1873, in Manchester, he was charged with embezzling from his employer. This time he was found guilty and imprisoned for six months [5].

By the next 1881 census return Charles was living with a 'wife' Lucy and two children. He eventually married Lucy Leigh just before her death in 1884. His young daughter Hannah was then brought up by sister Sarah Jane (Ineson) and son Charles by Lucy's relations. Charles continued to work as a clerk in Manchester and died aged 75.

Their son John also had a fascinating (and short) life, but that's another story - see *Cowburns* in the Old graveyard stories, and *Grime* in the Ancient graveyard.



- NI - New Inn
- JA - Joiner's Arms, later Commercial Inn
- GL, ONM, RO, TA - Golden Lion, (Old) Naked Man, Royal Oak, Talbot Arms as now
- SE - Spread Eagle Inn on Kirkgate
- CV - Crown Inn/Vaults
- WH - White Horse
- OBB - Obadiah Bayne's Beerhouse - the tiny house
- CDB - Charles Duckett's beerhouse, now the King William guesthouse.

## Settle Graveyard Project



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](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'.

*The diaries of William Lodge Paley are by kind permission of the North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust*

*Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Lancaster Gazette, 2 – Kendal Mercury, 3 – County Courts Chronicle, 4 – Westmorland Gazette*

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

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

*ph1 – credited to the Back in Settle Facebook site, ph2 – credited to Wikipedia, public domain*