

Deaths caused by disease, 1873 - 5, in chronological order, almost

Robert Henry Jackson, apprentice blacksmith, died April 1873

Robert Henry, born in 1857 in Bentham, was the son of **James Jackson**, a stone mason from Preston and his wife **Ann Bibby**. The family moved to Settle in 1860 and lived in the Bowskills Yard cottages.

Ann had four sons and a daughter before she died in 1865. Ann is buried in the Ancient graveyard with two other children, **Margaret Ann** and **William Edward Jackson**. James then married **Margaret Bleazard** who helped to bring up the remaining children. During the 1870s the family left Settle and moved to Lancaster which suggests James' work was linked to the building of the railway.

At the time of the 1871 census Robert Henry, aged 14, was apprenticed to a blacksmith. Robert Henry died on 25th April 1873 of Pthisis (tuberculosis) from which he had suffered for 4 months. Unhelpfully, the death records his occupation as 'son of James Jackson, stonemason'. As apprenticeships tended to last for around seven years, typically from the ages 14 – 21, he was probably still working as a blacksmith's apprentice and so may have worked on the railway. Robert Henry's death was registered by his father.

No.	When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
455	Twenty fifth April 1873 Settle	Robert Henry Jackson	Male	16 years	Son of James Jackson Stonemason	Pthisis 4 months Certified	James Jackson Present at the death - Settle	Twenty eighth April 1873	John Cawthorne Registrar

Robert is buried in an unmarked grave somewhere in the Ancient graveyard.



Robert Ralph, stonemason, died in May 1874

Robert, born in 1834, was a son of one of the many Ralph men of Settle. There were six Robert Ralphs living in Settle in 1871. This Robert's parents were (another) **Robert Ralph**, a joiner and his wife **Mary Higson**. Robert (Jnr) married **Mary Dale** from Skipton in 1858. They had three children while Robert worked as a stonemason, but a son, also Robert, died in 1872 aged four. We will never have proof that Robert worked on the railway but it would be surprising if he didn't. At the time of the 1871 census, Robert and family were living in Bowskills Yard behind Castle Hill in Settle.

On 11 May 1874 wife Mary died and just 13 days later on 24 May Robert also died [1]. Such was the way of things in 19th century Settle. Robert died of Pthisis (tuberculosis) and dropsy (oedema, swelling) and the chances are that Mary will have died of that too.

Settle.—On the 11th inst., Mary, wife of Mr. Robert Ralph, stonemason, aged 42 years.
Settle.—On the 24th inst., Mr. Robert Ralph, stonemason, aged 41 years.

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1874 DEATHS in the District of <i>Settle</i> in the County of <i>York West Riding</i>									
No.	When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
85	<i>Twenty fourth May 1874 Settle</i>	<i>Robert Ralph</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>41 years</i>	<i>Stonemason</i>	<i>Phthisis Diurnal flux General dropsy certified</i>	<i>Mary Sewell Present at the death Settle</i>	<i>Twenty fifth May 1874</i>	<i>Edm Cowburn Registrar</i>

This left two orphaned daughters aged 9 and 11. Daughter Ann was brought up by her aunt Martha (Ralph) Sanderson whose husband John Sanderson ran the Talbot Inn. Daughter Mary Jane was brought up by aunt Mary (Ralph) Sewell who had also registered Robert's death. Mary had married Aaron Sewell, another stonemason who had moved to Settle from Cockermouth, Cumbria presumably to work on the railways. The Sewells eldest two infant children, Thomas and Emily Alice, died within five days of each other in January 1876 and are buried in the graveyard. This prompted a move to Lancashire, with niece Mary Jane Ralph.

A year later, another Robert Ralph died. This Robert, born in 1875, was a second cousin to Robert above. He was the son of Matthew Ralph, a joiner and his wife Sarah Compston. They lived at 'Salt Pie' on the Green in Upper Settle. This Robert was a labourer in the limeworks so was less likely to be directly involved with the railway. However, his death certificate is shocking and worth commenting on.

He died, aged 18, on 16 September 1875. His cause of death was a convulsion fit (for half an hour), scrofulous (tuberculosis outside lungs) disease for 2 years, amputation of leg 15 days. Poor Robert had a horrendous protracted death. Let's hope his family could afford some laudanum.

1875 DEATHS in the District of <i>Settle</i> in the County of <i>York West Riding</i>									
No.	When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
58	<i>Sixteenth September 1875 Settle</i>	<i>Robert Ralph</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>18 years</i>	<i>Labourer at Joiner works</i>	<i>Convulsion fit 1/2 hour Scrofulous disease 2 years Amputation of leg 15 days certified by Dr Francis Green</i>	<i>The Marks of Mary Ann Foster Present at the death Settle</i>	<i>Sixteenth September 1875</i>	<i>Edm Cowburn Registrar</i>

His death was registered by Mary Ann Foster, a Ralph cousin (by marriage) who lived on Albert Hill. Her husband Henry Foster was an agricultural labourer. The surgeon who certified Robert's death was Francis Green.



James Harry Smith, railway labourer, died August 1874

James Harry Smith was born around 1836. In 1863, aged 28, he worked as a waiter and married Annie Frizzell. His father was called George Smith, 'a manufacturer'. If his father, George, really was a manufacturer it's unlikely that James would be working as a waiter, but it was not uncommon to exaggerate on wedding certificates.

Annie was from the Isle of Man where her father Edward Henry Frizzell was a sailor. Sailors had a notoriously low life expectancy. Annie's brother, Edward, was brought up by his Frizzell

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grandparents so it's possible their parents Edward and Margaret died when the children were young.

Annie came to Bradford to work as a waitress in the Albion Hotel on 142 Briggate in Leeds. Perhaps this is where she met James? (The shop next door to the Albion was run by butcher George Smith, who could have been James' father.) James and Annie married in Bradford and had a daughter, **Caroline Annie**, who died in infancy.

By the time of the 1871 census James Harry and Annie were in Settle. James Harry worked on the railways but wasn't registered on the census return, presumably working shifts. Annie was working as a domestic servant at the Golden Lion in Settle, for landlady *Mary Wetherell*.

Annie had two sons while they were in Settle, baptised at the church. **Sidney Charles** was born in December 1872 followed by **Harry** in January 1874.

On 22 August 1874 James died, aged 40, in 'Settle'. He died of phthisis, (tuberculosis) and acute pneumonia with wife Annie in attendance [1]. James' death was also certified by **Francis Green**.

Settle.—On the 22nd inst., Mr. James Smith, railway labourer, aged 40 years.

1875. DEATHS in the District of <i>Settle</i> in the County of <i>York West Riding</i>									
No.	When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
257	<i>22nd August 1875 Settle</i>	<i>James Smith</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>40 years</i>	<i>Railway Labourer</i>	<i>Phthisis Pneumonia (acute) Certified by Francis Green M.D.C.S.</i>	<i>Annie Smith Wife In Attendance Settle</i>	<i>Twenty fourth August 1875</i>	<i>John Goshorn Registrar</i>

After James Harry's death, Annie returned to Bradford and worked as an office cleaner whilst bringing up the two young boys. The sons worked as labourers, initially. Sydney became a barman and Harry married Olive Quirk and worked as a waiter.



Samuel Henry, stonemason, died October 1874

Samuel Henry was a navy from Newry, Ireland, born in 1848, son of **John Henry**. There were numerous Irish Catholic families with the surname Henry so it is difficult to be sure of this research.

Samuel's older brother **William**, a stonemason, had arrived in Settle by the time of the 1871 census. He lived in Poole's Row, Upper Settle boarding with another Irish mason **John Moore**. They lived with **James Needs**, an engine driver from Bristol and his family. Samuel, also a stonemason, followed William to Settle and may have lived with him at Poole's Row. He died of pneumonia on 15th October 1874, aged just 25 [1] and brother William was present at his death.

aged 17 years.
Settle.—On the 15th instant, Mr. Samuel Henry, stonemason, aged 25 years.

No.	When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
140	<i>15th October 1874 Settle</i>	<i>Samuel Henry</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>25 years</i>	<i>Stonemason</i>	<i>Pneumonia Endocarditis certified</i>	<i>William Henry Present at the death Settle</i>	<i>Sixteenth October 1874</i>	<i>John Goshorn Registrar</i>

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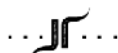
Samuel's younger brother **Patrick** was also a stonemason and may also have come over to Settle with him. With three brothers working in the same occupation, it's quite likely their father was also a mason. Patrick married **Margaret Walsh** in Settle in 1877. Margaret was also Irish, from Tipperary, the daughter of a rag grinder. Patrick and Margaret lived in Craven Cottages in Settle to have the first few of their nine children before moving to Nelson.

Patrick and Margaret's son **Henry Edward Henry** died in November 1885, aged 5 months. Henry has the dubious honour of being the first burial in the Old section of the graveyard in unmarked plot AX47, just in front of the church door. He is buried with two members of the *Bell family*.



Samuel's brothers are likely to have arranged for his gravestone in a quiet corner of the graveyard.

In affectionate remembrance of Samuel Henry of Commons, Newry, Ireland who died at Settle, Yorkshire Oct 15 1874, aged 25 years. "Thy will be done"



Thomas Cooper, stonemason, died February 1875

Thomas Ferris, railway labourer, died May 1873

During the early 1870s, the Cooper family moved to England from Newry, Ireland. Thomas Cooper, a stonemason and his wife Mary brought at least four grown up children and a few infant grandchildren with them too. They had a son Thomas, born in 1852, who found work in Settle on the railway.

Young Thomas, also a stonemason, died on 22 February 1875, aged 23, another victim of Pthithis (tuberculosis) and pneumonia from which he had been suffering for four months.

Settle.—On the 22nd inst., Mr. Thomas Cooper, stonemason, aged 23 years.

1875 DEATHS in the District of <i>Settle</i> in the County of <i>York West Riding</i>								
When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
<i>Twenty second February 1875 Settle</i>	<i>Thomas Cooper</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>23 years</i>	<i>Stonemason</i>	<i>Pneumonia Tubercular 4 months Induced by funeral fever</i>	<i>His Mark of Hugh Cooper Brother In Attendance Settle</i>	<i>Twenty third February 1875</i>	<i>Alan Ashburn Registrar</i>

Thomas' elder brother **Hugh**, another stonemason, was present at his death. By the time of the 1881 census Hugh had moved to Bootle and lived with his parents, aunts, other siblings and nephews and nieces. Perhaps the whole family had been in Settle too?

Thomas had a sister **Eliza Jane Cooper** who had married **Robert Ferris**, a greengrocer, also from Newry. Robert Ferris had a brother **Thomas Ferris** a labourer. Robert and Thomas also found work on the railways.

Thomas Ferris was born in 1845 but died on 13th April 1873, aged 28, of inflammation of the lungs, typically pneumonia, from which he had been suffering for two weeks [1].

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When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
Settle April 1873	Thomas Ferris	Male	28 Years	Railway Labourer	Inflammation of the lungs 12 weeks continued	Robert Ferris Present at the death Settle	First May 1873	John Andrew Registrar

Thomas' death was registered by his brother Robert Ferris. **Robert and his wife Eliza Jane Cooper** were a very fertile pairing. From the birth locations of their children we can tell that they had moved over to England by 1872 and son **William** was born at 'Batty Wife'. It's hard to imagine what it must have been like to give birth under the shadow of Ribbleshead Viaduct. Robert was a greengrocer who will have worked to service the navy town at Ribbleshead – the navvies needed copious supplies for such a physical job.

Settle.—On the 30th ult., Mr. Thomas Ferris, railway laborer, aged 28 years.

Yorkshire Batty Wife

By 1873 the family had moved to Settle and by 1881 lived in the High Street - perhaps brother Thomas and the Coopers had lived with them? Eliza Jane had given birth to eight children, three of whom died in infancy and childhood. **Mary Jane Ferris** died in 1875, aged 17 months. Son **James Henry Ferris** died in 1880, aged one month and four year old **Robert Ferris** died five weeks later so they may have suffered from the same disease. They are most likely buried with Thomas Ferris and Thomas Cooper.

After the birth of another son, **Robert Cooper Ferris**, Robert and Eliza also moved to Bootle. Eliza Jane died in 1896 in Bootle. Robert wasted no time in marrying the much younger **Mary Atherton** from Liverpool who produced another four daughters. Robert's children remained in Bootle scraping a living working on the docks, labouring and making match boxes.

Thomas Ferris and Thomas Cooper are buried together in the Ancient graveyard. From the inscription on the stone, it appears to have been erected at the beginning of 1875, when Thomas Cooper and Mary Jane Ferris died.

In affectionate remembrance of Thomas Cooper of Newry who died at Settle Feb 22nd 1875 aged 23 years, also Thomas Ferris of Newry who died at Settle April 30th 1873 aged 28 years. Also Mary Jane Ferris who died at Settle aged 17 months. Not lost but gone before, Anc C13.



...JR...

John Barrett, railway labourer, died April 1875

John, born in 1820, was from Hinton Charterhouse in the outskirts of Bath, Somerset, the son of **Thomas Barrett** and **Mary Fussell**. Mary died two years after John was born, at the birth of sister Mary. This was a family of agricultural labourers. The last record for Thomas was in a workhouse in Bath. The whole family were elusive and rarely appeared in census returns, despite the distinctive birth place.

In 1871 John was in Settle working as a railway labourer with a wife **Elizabeth** who came from Newton St Cyres near Exeter. (Elizabeth is equally elusive and cannot be traced before this). They lived in Poole's Yard just below Upper Settle.

John died on the 19th April 1875, aged 55, although recorded as 53. He died of liver damage, from which he had suffered for 9 months and ascitis. Ascitis is the build up of fluid in the

1875 DEATHS in the District of <i>Settle</i> in the County of <i>York West Riding</i>									
No.	When and Where Died.	Name and Surname.	Sex.	Age.	Rank or Profession.	Cause of Death.	Signature, Description, and Residence of Informant.	When Registered.	Signature of Registrar.
333	<i>March 1875 Settle</i>	<i>John Barrett</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>53</i>	<i>Railway yard Labourer</i>	<i>Heart disease of thrombotic character to which Contributed by Gallstones in the Gall Bladder</i>	<i>The boards of Elizabeth Thompson Present at the death Settle</i>	<i>Twenty second April 1875</i>	<i>Elizabeth Thompson Registrar</i>

abdomen caused by cirrhosis of the liver. It's fair to say John probably drank a lot. Working on the railway was a tough physical job and alcohol was common relaxation.

John is buried in an unmarked grave somewhere in the Ancient Graveyard.

The informant was 55 year old widow **Elizabeth Thompson**, nee Cockshott, who lived in Poole's Row and so a close neighbour to the Barretts. Perhaps wife Elizabeth was too upset to register the death? Elizabeth's husband, **Robert Thompson**, a stonemason's labourer had died ten years earlier, aged 52, before leaving her to bring up five children, the youngest of whom, **Robina**, was born six months after Robert's death.

So what happened to widow Elizabeth Barrett? Almost two years later Elizabeth married **James Gibbins** who was also a railway labourer. James had previously married **Tryphena Maidment**, also from Somerset.

At the time of the 1871 census James and Tryphena lived in the navy hut community in Ashfield Square in the grounds of the Ashfield estate. James and Tryphena were the heads of the household with six boarders who were all railway labourers and came from Surrey, London, Lancashire and John Smith from 'NK' – unknown. Ashfield Square housed 15 navy huts each containing families and boarders who were railway workers from all around the UK. There were carpenters, stone masons, engine drivers and stokers as well as railway labourers. There were 96 residents altogether including wives and children. The hut recorded next on the census return was a 'hospital' of some sort.

James' wife Tryphena died in 1874 and is buried at Giggleswick. The burial records describe her residence at death as 'Stansfield Square'. *George Stansfeld* and his wife *Sarah Birkbeck* had owned the Ashfield estate until their deaths in 1869. The railway cut straight through the Stansfeld's land but obviously the family will have received generous compensation. By the time of the 1871 census the grown up Stansfeld children had moved out. The property was not used as a private residence again but became the Ashfield Hotel. Daughter Sarah Georgina married the solicitor *Charles Henry Charlesworth* and they lived at Marshfield nearby before moving to Bank Well in Giggleswick. Daughter Rachel Wilhelmina married her first cousin *John Birkbeck* and settled in Anley. Their stories are included in the Graveyard Project.



By the time of the 1881 census, James and Elizabeth Gibbins had moved to East Ham, Essex where James worked as a labourer.



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, '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.

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