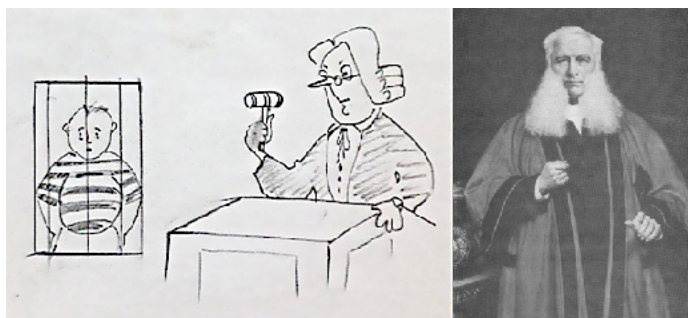


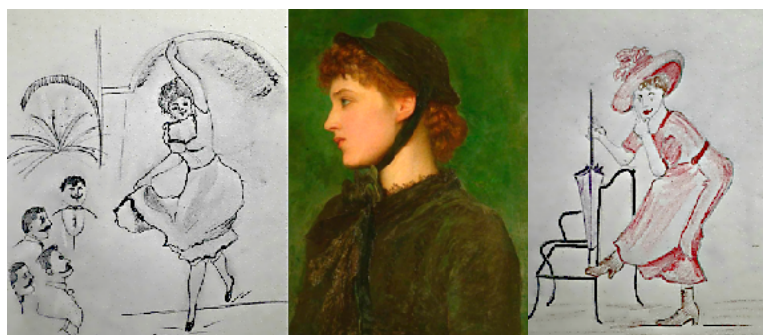
Reverend Jackson Mason, a very well connected vicar

Jackson was born in December 1833 in Normanton, near Wakefield, the eldest child of **William Mason**, a vicar and his wife **Margaret Hutton**. Three of Jackson's siblings died as children. Both William Mason and son Jackson attended Giggleswick School before studying at Trinity College, Cambridge and taking Holy Orders.



When he was 24 in August 1858, Jackson married **Eleanora Gertrude Hammond** who was the daughter of **John Hammond** who just happened to be Her Majesty's Advocate General in Jersey [ph2]. John was a strong supporter of the Jersey Industrial School and Female Orphans Home as well as a keen horticulturist. In his professional life as a judge he took a keen interest in the prisoners he sentenced and visited them in prison to talk to them about their plans to reform.

Eleanora's mother was **Jane Penrose Le Breton**. Jane's brother and Eleanora's uncle was Very Rev **William Corbett Le Breton**, the Rector and Dean of Jersey. William had scandalously eloped to Gretna Green with his wife to be, **Emily Martin**, and they had seven children including the socialite, actress and producer **Lillie Langtry** [ph1]. Lillie gained particular notoriety as the mistress of the Prince of Wales (later Edward VII) from 1877-80. I wonder what the family in Jersey thought about that? In Jersey the family lived in an enormous Georgian building, Grosvenor Terrace. Eleanora's siblings were named Penrose, Durrell and Vavasour.



Undeterred by the high life, Jackson began his ministry at Pickhill, near Thirsk, possibly taking over from his father, from 1859 until 1883. At the time of censuses, their two children lived at Pickhill with a range of governesses and servants while Jackson and Eleanora visited friends around the country.

Jackson was appointed to work in Settle in October 1883 after **Rev William Frederick Pierson** died in August [2]. His induction took place in December 1883. If Jackson thought Settle would be a quiet little backwater he was mistaken – he was immediately involved in negotiations to find additional land for the graveyard as the Ancient graveyard had been legally closed since 1882, being dangerously full

APPOINTMENT OF INCUMBENT FOR SETTLE.—
The trustees of Ascension Church have appointed the Rev. Jackson Mason, M.A., vicar of Pickhill, near Thirsk, and formerly curate of Cantley, near Doncaster, to the incumbency of Settle, which became vacant about two months ago owing to the death of the Rev. W. F. Pierson, who had held the living for upwards of thirty years. There were over twenty candidates for the office. The living is not a lucrative one, the net income only amounting to £174, inclusive of parsonage house. The newly elected incumbent enjoys a high reputation in his present diocese. He has been vicar of Pickhill for upwards of twenty years.

The Clerk laid Dr. Atkinson's annual report before the Board, and amongst the matters requiring the attention of the Sanitary Authority during the year 1884, is the provision of a cemetery for Settle and Giggleswick, the Settle Churchyard having been closed by Order in Council, and the new portion added to the old parish ground at Giggleswick is being rapidly filled.—A committee was appointed to select a suitable site and obtain terms of purchase and report to the Board.—The

[1]. Dr Francis Edward Atkinson was the surgeon reporting to the Sanitary Authority.

This was quite a contentious issue and Jackson was under pressure both from families and Giggleswick church. He received numerous requests from families to allow burials with previously deceased family members but was prevented from doing so by law – they had to be buried at Giggleswick, but that graveyard was filling rapidly. The church hoped to obtain land to the east of the church from *Mrs Clayton* and *Mrs Perfect*, the owners of Townhead estate (and Langcliffe Hall) but they appeared to back out at the last minute. In the end Mr Hartley's piece of land 'called Shortcake' next to the railway was purchased for £350 with a request to the ladies to reconsider. They didn't and son/nephew George Perfect wrote a letter stating they had declined to give their consent to the enlarging the graveyard on their land [2]. Not in their back yard.

Harger against it, the meeting resolved, with only one dissentient, that Mr Hartley's land should be purchased for £350 and added to the churchyard. A further resolution was unanimously passed requesting Mrs Perfect and Mrs Clayton to reconsider their refusal to sell their property. A vote of thanks to the vicar for the action he had taken in the matter was warmly accorded by those present, the meeting being attended by members of all the religious denominations in the town.

Moreover, the churchyard at Giggleswick was being rapidly filled up. At Settle they had a churchyard without a sleeping ground, and again and again he had applications from persons who wished to inter a body by the side of a relative, but he was prevented by law from assenting. Mr Win. Hartley had consented to name a price for a piece of land called "Shortcake," which adjoins the churchyard, and until the eleventh hour it was understood by the church officials that Mrs Perfect and Mrs Clayton, of Townhead, were willing to dispose of a portion of Townhead Meadow, which it was obvious to all should be added to the rest to make the scheme complete. Those ladies had, however, now declined to part with the land, and those who were acting in the matter were reduced to the more limited scheme.

SETTLE CHURCHYARD EXTENSION.
To the Editor of The Yorkshire Post.
 SIR,—The statement made by the Rev. Jackson Mason at the vestry meeting held at Settle on Monday evening last, as reported in your paper of Wednesday the 31st ultimo, is calculated to mislead. So far from ever having given their consent to sell a portion of the Townhead Meadow for the purpose of enlarging the churchyard, now closed, the owners, on the 29th of July last, and again later, wrote to Mr Mason distinctly declining to do so: and upon further solicitation have since written to the churchwardens to the same effect. — Yours obediently,
 Stainforth, January 2d. **W. GEORGE PERFECT.**



Members of all denominations were involved in discussions and contributed to the costs as Methodists and Catholics would use the graveyard over the years to come.

However, there was now a problem with a footpath which had traditionally run alongside the church for use by workers walking to and from the Langcliffe Mills [CH, ph3]. As the railway cut across the path, the railway had been obliged to build a tunnel under the railway for the workers to walk through. The footpath was diverted around the far side of the

THE ENLARGEMENT OF THE CHURCHYARD.—A numerous attended vestry meeting was held at the National School, on Thursday evening, the 2nd inst. The Rev. Jackson Mason, M.A., presided. The business of the meeting related to the diversion of a footpath running past the churchyard, and for which another road has been provided. It was resolved without a single dissentient, that the footpath be diverted as proposed, and application made at Quarter Sessions for the usual orders to close it.

rch@



railway so that the land could be used by the church for burials [ph4].

CARRIAGE ACCIDENT.—About eight o'clock on Tuesday evening last, a collision occurred in the Market Place between a brougham which was being driven by the coachman of the Rev. Jackson Mason, and a dog cart belonging to Mrs. Batty, of the Royal Oak Hotel. The dog cart was overturned and Mrs. Batty and one of her children were thrown into the road, but fortunately sustained no serious injury. The brougham being a heavier vehicle did not suffer so much damage. A sale of pots was taking place opposite where the accident occurred.

In the same edition of the paper it was reported that Jackson's carriage was involved in an accident with a dog belonging to Mrs Batty at the Royal Oak Inn. The paper seemed to blame a sale of pots nearby [CH].

ing of the Rural Sanitary Authority—Mr H. Christie presiding—the Clerk read a letter from the Rev. Jackson Mason, M.A., vicar of Settle, intimating his willingness to inter in the enlarged portion of the churchyard all paupers belonging to the township of Settle who die in the workhouse so long as he remains in charge. This decision having disposed of the question of the provision of a joint cemetery for the parishes of Settle and Giggleswick which had been under the consideration of the Board for several months, it was resolved that the vicar's letter be entered on the minutes. The vital statistics for the past month show that the number of deaths in the Settle district was 17, being equal to an annual mortality of 15.0 per 1000 living, and the number of births was 27, which is equal to an annual birth-rate of 24.8 per 1000 of population.

Soon after acquiring the land for the Old Graveyard, Jackson agreed to use it as the burial place for the paupers of Settle who died in the workhouse so long as he remained in charge [1]. True to his word, the graveyard contains numerous 'Union' burials for the years he was in service.

Jackson joined the celebrations for Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in June 1887. Children received a jubilee medal. At noon Jackson addressed the residents of Settle and Langcliffe in the Market Place on 'the Queen's accession and beneficent reign'. This was followed by a lustily sung National Anthem, a procession through town and then a 'knife and fork tea' at the Drill Hall and schools. In the evening there were sports on Marshfield Cricket Ground and then fireworks from the top of Castleberg. The town also raised money by subscription for a new peal of bells. A plaque in the belfry reads 'This peal of bells was raised by subscription in 1887, the fiftieth year of the reign of Queen Victoria, and dedicated to the glory of God, and the welfare of this church. Jackson Mason, Vicar, Thomas Clark, John Handby, churchwardens.'



DEDICATION OF JUBILEE BELLS AT SETTLE.

This Craven town, so effusive in loyal demonstrations at Midsummer, has been happy enough to secure a more permanent memorial of the Queen's Jubilee. The dedication of a peal of eight new bells, which took place on Thursday in its Church of the Holy Ascension, is, we believe, a unique occurrence this year in the diocese in which it was situated, and up to the last moment it was hoped that the bishop himself would be present. The bells have been raised by subscription. The scheme originated at a vestry meeting, where a Jubilee Bells Committee was formed, and the vicar promised one bell. The success of the project has been largely due to the prompt and unexpected liberality of Mr. Christopher Beverley, of Stanningley, who gives the tenor bell in memory of his father, Christopher Lodge Beverley, a Craven man, and formerly educated at Giggleswick Grammar School. Thus stimulated, local interest followed, and the committee were speedily encouraged by several handsome donations in the town, and by the cordial help of Mr. Walter Morrison, M.P. The bells, which



SETTLE—THE NEW CHURCH BELLS.—Mr. Christopher Beverley, of West View, Stanningley, visited Settle on the eve of Ascension Day, and intimated to the vicar (the Rev. Jackson Mason, M.A.,) that he should be pleased to present to the Church the tenor bell and to defray any attendant expenses, as a memorial of his late father, Mr. Christopher Lodge Beverley, of Dirlcar House, Wakefield, who received his education at the Giggleswick Grammar School, and whose ancestors were landed proprietors in Craven for upwards of 270 years.

Rev Jackson Mason paid for No.7 bell himself and this was quickly followed by an unexpected contribution by the son of Christopher Lodge Beverley who had recently died. As a child he had attended Giggleswick School [2]. *'The success of the project has been largely due to the prompt and unexpected liberality of Mr Christopher Beverley who gives the tenor bell in memory of his father Christopher Lodge Beverley'* after which other donations quickly followed [3].

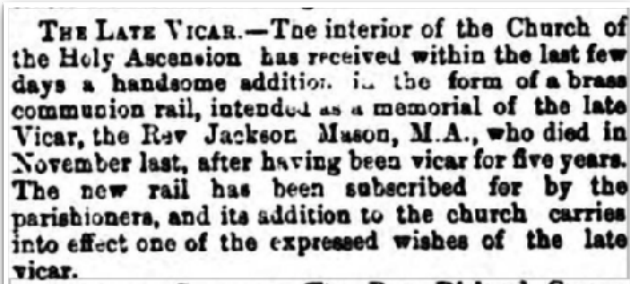
Jackson was also involved in the work to establish Settle as an independent Parish which was finally formalised in 1892.

In November 1888 Jackson went to Leeds for an operation but didn't survive. He was just 54 and had been at the church for just five years, but what a busy five years. Jackson's body was taken to Thirsk on the North Eastern Railway and was buried in Pickhill, Thirsk with his parents.

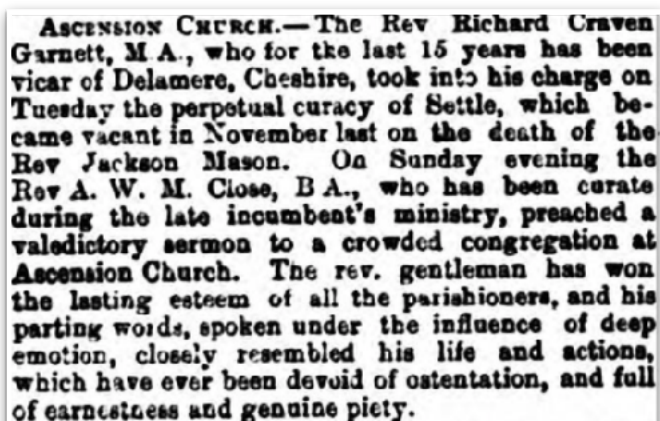
At Jackson's request a brass communion rail for the church was purchased in his memory [CH]. He left over £4 million (today's value) to Eleanora when he died. Good Lord! Eleanora went to live in Ripon and then Kent.

Son **William Vavasour Mason** also went to Giggleswick School and became a vicar. He married **Mary Charlesworth**, the daughter of **Charles Henry Charlesworth**, Settle solicitor, and they lived in London, Hertfordshire and Cambridge. Daughter **Emily Margaret Mason** was also educated and became a lecturer in architecture in Masham.

Jackson was replaced by **Reverend Richard Craven Garnett**. Jackson had been assisted by a curate, **Alfred Wilfred Mills Close** from Manchester. Alfred left Settle when Jackson died, but was obviously well regarded, and was presented with a purse of gold, worth £35 [CH]. AWM Close ended his days in Darlington and was succeeded by Rev J E Howe.



THE LATE VICAR.—The interior of the Church of the Holy Ascension has received within the last few days a handsome addition in the form of a brass communion rail, intended as a memorial of the late Vicar, the Rev Jackson Mason, M.A., who died in November last, after having been vicar for five years. The new rail has been subscribed for by the parishioners, and its addition to the church carries into effect one of the expressed wishes of the late vicar.



ASCENSION CHURCH.—The Rev Richard Craven Garnett, M.A., who for the last 15 years has been vicar of Delamere, Cheshire, took into his charge on Tuesday the perpetual curacy of Settle, which became vacant in November last on the death of the Rev Jackson Mason. On Sunday evening the Rev A. W. M. Close, B.A., who has been curate during the late incumbent's ministry, preached a valedictory sermon to a crowded congregation at Ascension Church. The rev. gentleman has won the lasting esteem of all the parishioners, and his parting words, spoken under the influence of deep emotion, closely resembled his life and actions, which have ever been devoid of ostentation, and full of earnestness and genuine piety.



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. 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.

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, 2 – Yorkshire Post, 3 – Preston Herald

Settle Graveyard Project

CH – with the kind permission of the Craven Herald and Pioneer

ph1 – photo credited to Wikipedia, ph2 – photo credited to GR Balleine's Biographical Dictionary of Jersey, ph3 – with thanks to John Diggles, ph4 – with thanks to Paul Cochrane