

## William Clark, innkeeper at the White Horse, amongst other things

William, born in 1847, was a labourer's son from Bracewell near Barnoldswick. He travelled around the area working as a labourer, an ale porter and in Lancaster, a ship's labourer. By 1876 William was in Settle working as the innkeeper at the White Horse Inn. A year later he married **Mary Jane Cleminson**, the youngest of six children of an agricultural labourer, **Thomas Cleminson** and his wife **Ellen Stirrup** in Lancaster. Thomas and Ellen had twin daughters soon after they married, one of whom was called Mary Jane. Sadly both daughters died in infancy. Mary Jane Clark had nine children over the following 17 years. Impressive work Mary Jane.

At the time of the 1881 census business seemed to be doing well at the White Horse. William and Mary Jane had their first three children with two servants, including Mary Jane's 11 year old niece, **Mary Elizabeth Cleminson**, to help with the baby. (Mary Elizabeth later married **Walter Foxcroft** who could be related to other Foxcrofts in this graveyard.) They had five boarders and visitors, including **Matthias Nowell** (below). For some reason William gave up the tenancy at the inn just a year later and it was transferred to **Henry Wilson** [1].

**TRANSFER.**—Mr. W. A. Robinson applied on behalf of Henry Wilson for a transfer of the license of the White Horse Inn from William Clark. The application was granted



Mr Clarke's children , photograph by the Horner Studio. Horner Collection©NCBPT (CC-BY 4.0)

In 1883 William and Mary Jane took their eldest four children, and niece Mary Elizabeth Cleminson, to have their photo taken at the Horner studios, [ph3]. The family stayed in Settle and lived in the Zion Chapel Yard with William working as a labourer at the 'Ale and Porter Vaults' at the Town Hall. He will have worked with **Robert Corney** and **Storer Clement Peberdy** while Mary Jane had more children. Two of their daughters died as infants. **Agnes** died of 'suffocation of the glands' in 1888, aged one and **Ellen** died of kidney disease in 1890, aged five. Surgeon **James Walker Edgar** certified their deaths and **William Field Hook** was the Registrar. The sisters are buried in the *Old graveyard* A32.

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 May 1888 Settle N.S.	Agnes Clark	Female	1 year	Daughter of William Clark a General Labourer	Suffocation of Glands Certified by James W. Edgar M.D.	William Clark Father Resident at Settle	11th May 1888	William Field Hook Registrar

During the 1890s William is credited as being the most likely candidate, along with local grocer **Thomas Altham** of writing a satirical poem about three local fishermen including former tenant

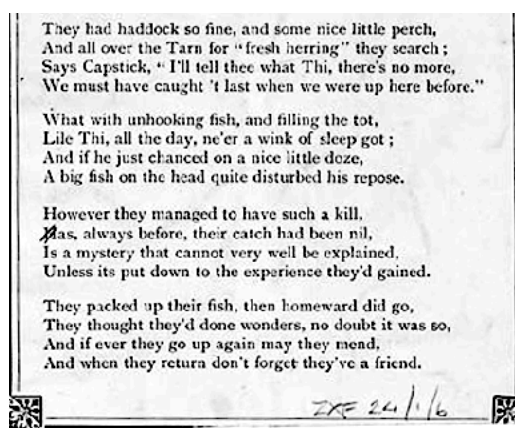
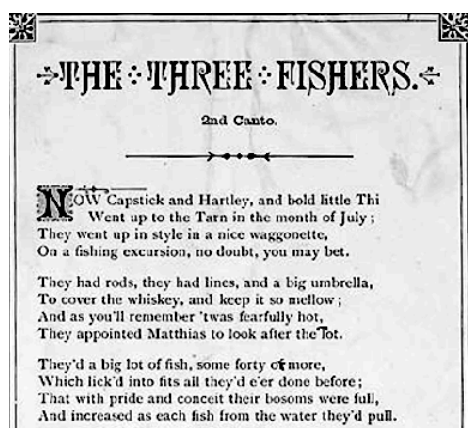
settleresearch@gm

Some thirty years ago two poems, believed to be the work of **W. C.** and **T. A.** were printed, in which the angling feats of three popular local worthies—James Hartley, Wm. Capstick, and Matthias Nowell—were the butt of gentle fun. The grief of the trio at a mishap may be noted.

Now a bottle they'd got, full of whiskey they thought  
As Nowell remarked—"Good as ever was bought;"  
When Capstick sings out, and Jim says, "What's matter?"  
"I'm denged if they hev'nt put up mineral watter."

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**Matthias Nowell**, blacksmith **William Capstick** and **James Hartley**, coal merchant. It included the verses [ph1]:



'Now a bottle they's got, full of whisky they'd thought, As Nowell remarked, "good as ever was bought". When Capstick sings out, and Jim says, "What's matter", "I'm dented if they haven't put up mineral water".

"That's intended for me" says lile Thi with a smile, "But it's rather too much to bring it six mile, So we'll take it back home for I call it a sin, To drink mineral water unless mixed with a gin"

This seemed to backfire as not everyone appreciated the joke. Friends of the fishermen issued a leaflet attacking the authors:

'There's two men in Settle who sit at their ease, to scandalise people just as they please, They walk up and down and call themselves mashers, they can't leave alone Three Poor Little Fishers.'

Both William Clark and Thomas Altham had moved away from Settle by the time of the following census and perhaps this was one of the reasons. Mary Jane's mother, Ellen, was in Lancaster in her 80s and may also have needed looking after. William worked on the docks. By the time of the 1911 census the family were in Halifax. William was the innkeeper of the King of Prussia Inn which was patriotically renamed the 'King of Belgium' at the start of WW1. It closed in 1928 and the building has since been demolished.

William died of prostate cancer in 1912, aged 65 and was brought back to Settle for burial with his young daughters. Mary Jane and the younger children moved back to live in High Hill Grove. Mary Jane died of a stroke on her 76th birthday. They are buried with their children in Old A32 with a beautifully engraved stone featuring lilies to reflect piety.

*In loving memory of William Clark died Oct 25<sup>th</sup> 1912 aged 65 yrs. Also of Mary Jane wife of the above died Dec 28<sup>th</sup> 1929 aged 76 years. Also Ellen their daughter died April 6<sup>th</sup> 1890 aged 5 years. Also Agnes their daughter died May 4<sup>th</sup> 1888 aged 15 months, Old A32*



None of the children stayed in Settle after Mary Jane's death and a couple had quite adventurous lives. Their sons **Walter** and **Colonel William Frederick Clark** [ph2] are thought to have worked for **Walter Morrison** at Malham Tarn House as footmen. They later ran successful trading companies exporting to the west coast of South Africa, perhaps with a helping hand from the benevolent Walter Morrison. Son **John Thomas Clark** followed his dad to become an innkeeper at the Queen's Arms, Cartmel, Lancashire with his second wife **Harriet Taylor**.



## Settle Graveyard Project

### 19th century Inns in Settle

**JA** - Joiner's Arms, later the Commercial (Temperance) Inn

**NI** - New Inn on what was then New Road, now Station Road

**SE** - Spread Eagle Inn on Kirkgate

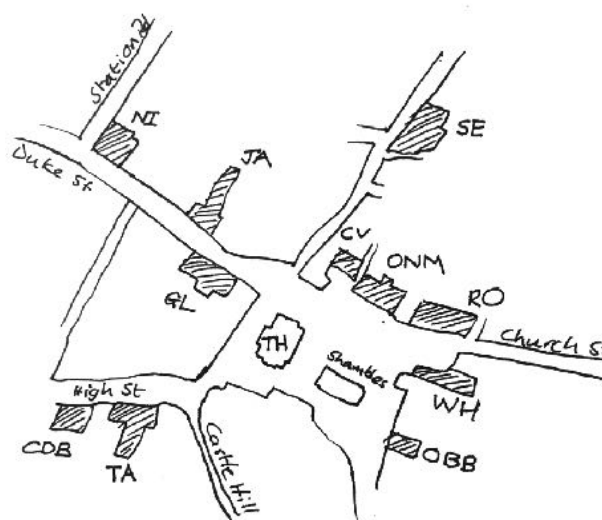
**CV** - Crown Inn/Vaults

**ONM, RO, TA, GL** - (Old) Naked Man, Royal Oak, Talbot Arms, Golden Lion as now

**WH** - White Horse

**OBB** - Obadiah Bayne's Beerhouse - the tiny house in the row

**CDB** - Charles Duckett's beerhouse, now the King William guesthouse.



## Matthias Nowell, grocer and fisherman

Matthias was born in Austwick in 1839, the illegitimate son of **Ann Nowell**. Ann's father **Thomas Nowell** was from Gisburn and married **Agnes Ward** from Austwick and so the Nowells of Austwick began. Matthias was brought up by his mother, grandmother and uncles. Matthias started his career as a grocer's assistant in Blackburn. In 1864 he returned to Settle to take over the well established business of **Edward Thomas Foster** on Constitution Hill [SC]. There are numerous adverts for his business selling not just tea, but also coffee, patent medicines for animals, paraffin oil candles, soap, lard, tar, butter and eggs [LSA].

**SHEEP! · SHEEP! · SHEEP!**

— ESTABLISHED 1881. —

**MATTHIAS NOWELL,**

(LATE EDWARD T. FOSTER.)

**GRO CER, &c., SETTLE,**

*Begs to inform his numerous Customers that he has received a large quantity of*

**Butter, Pale & Brown Grease, Margarine, Whalesfoot, Tallow, Oil, Archangel Tar, American & White Tar, for making Sheep Salve.**

*which they will find of good quality, and as cheap as any house in Yorkshire.*

McDougall's Sheep Smear and Dip; Nowell's Sheep Paste, Powder and Liquid Dips; Little's, McLeod's, Barratt's, Long's, and Tomlinson and Hayward's Dipping Compositions; Noxona and All-round Dips; Nowell's Celebrated Sheep Salve; Foot-rot Ointments; Luddington's Celebrated Oils; Ruddle.

Oalf, Stirk and Cow Bands; Strong Hemp Halters, Cart Ropes, &c.; Farmers' Brushes & Besoms.

— FRESH BUTTER AND EGGS BOUGHT. —

Whilst retaining his business premises on Constitution Hill Matthias seemed to prefer to live in the company of others. At the time of the censuses he was found living with widow **Ellen Skirrow** on Kirkgate, at the Naked Man Inn with **Jane Batty** and at the White Horse with **William**

**E. T. FOSTER,**  
Tea Dealer, Constitution Hill, Settle.

Begs to return his grateful thanks to his numerous friends and customers in Yorkshire, Lancashire, and Westmorland for the liberal support he has received from them during the 30 years he has been in business. He also begs to inform them that he is declining business in favour of Matthias Nowell, whom he had as his assistant for several years, and solicits a continuation of their favours to his successor.

E. T. Foster returns his sincere thanks to the Graziers and Farmers of the above counties who have so liberally purchased Butter and Tar for Sheep Salve from him, and begs to inform them that the business will be carried on at the same place as usual by Matthias Nowell for whom he solicits their patronage.

Settle, Feb. 1st, 1864.

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**MATTHIAS NOWELL,**  
TEA DEALER AND GRO CER,  
CONSTITUTION HILL, SETTLE,

Begs leave to announce that he has succeeded to the business of Mr. E. T. Foster, Tea Dealer, and respectfully solicits a continuance of the liberal support which has so long been conferred upon his predecessor.

M. N. assures those who may favour him with their commands that he will devote his best exertions to deserve their patronage and support.

Settle, Feb. 1st, 1864.

## Settle Graveyard Project

**Clark** – above. At the time of the the 1901 census Matthias lived on Constitution Hill next door to the **Brynning sisters**, Edward Thomas Foster's nieces.

During the 1890s Matthias [left, ph1] was one of the three fishermen referred to in the poem by his ex landlord **William Clark**. Matthias died in March 1911, aged 72, leaving his £48 to **Samuel Hodgson**, the deaf cabinet maker. Matthias' probate records described him as an oil and dip merchant. He is buried with his great niece **Sarah Mary Nowell** in the unmarked *Old GX24*

Sarah Mary was the eldest child of Matthias' cousin **John Nowell**. John was a labourer who also moved to Settle. He lived in the Shambles with his wife Mary Wilson and eight children. John, Mary and several children populate the graveyard.



*In memory of John Nowell died June 8 1902 aged 67 years.  
Mary his wife died Feb 17 1912 aged 69 years. John their son died May 18 1907 aged 25 years. Sarah Mary their daughter died Nov 20 1914 aged 40 years. Agnes their daughter died Dec 13 1941 aged 61 years, Old B24*

This grave commemorates John and Mary plus children Sarah Mary, **John Craven Nowell** and **Agnes (Moorby)**. We already know Sarah Mary is buried with Matthias Nowell in the unmarked *Old GX24*. Agnes had married **George Moorby**, a railway bridge painter and is buried in the unmarked *Old FX24*. She has the company of unrelated **Thomas Cokell**, a 30 year old butcher and son of Adam and Ann Cokell.



The grave also contains the remains of two year old **Mary Nowell** who was the illegitimate daughter of eldest daughter Sarah Mary but she is not commemorated on the stone.

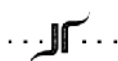
John and Mary's son **Thomas Nowell**, a labourer is buried with his wife Mary in the *New grave J23*

*In loving memory of Thomas Nowell died Sept 5th 1939 aged 71 years Also Mary his wife died Feb 11th 1943 Aged 72 years, New J23*



John and Mary's son **George Nowell**, a quarryman is buried with his wife **Maria (Wain)** in the unmarked grave *New HX4*. Maria was the sister of *Isaac Wain* - see *Huthersall*.

Matthias' cousin **William Nowell** was a farmer in Lawkland who spent his last days in Settle. He was 79 when he died in 1908 and is buried with an infant grandson **Norman Nowell** in the unmarked *Old DX6*. Another infant **Dorothy Oxley Parker**, daughter of Fred Parker, a travelling railway worker and Elizabeth Oxley is buried with them.



*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.*

## Settle Graveyard Project

*Life stories 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'.*

*The life stories of people with italicised names have been researched as part of the graveyard project.*

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

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