

## The Ayrton families

'Ayrton' was quite a common name in 19th century Craven, with several families living in and around Settle and Rathmell.

### Henry, Mary and John Ayrton, innkeepers for over 30 years, New Inn, Royal Oak, Craven Arms

Henry Ayrton was born in 1808 near Kirkby Lonsdale and, like his dad, began his career as a farmer, farming the land around Launds Farm, near Hornby. Henry never knew his mother **Elizabeth Batty** as she died at the time of his birth. In 1835 Henry married **Elizabeth Hird**, a farmer's daughter who came from Kirkby Stephen. They had a daughter Elizabeth and a son, but the birth of little James killed his mother, and James followed three months later. Elizabeth and son James are buried together with Elizabeth's parents and two brothers at Gressingham, just over the river. Henry's brother Richard and nephew William also have fine stones in the graveyard. Elizabeth's brother Anthony Hird also moved to this area. He and his descendants lived in Armistead Hall and have fine gravestones in Giggleswick graveyard.



By 1840 Henry had moved to Settle and married Mary Marsden from Long Preston, and one of their witnesses was John King. Henry had a partnership with John King, renting the New Inn, grounds and outbuildings and 15 acres of land from the Birkbeck family. Henry ran the carrier service while John ran the inn. Henry and Mary were to have seven children in the next nine years. Henry had generously supported the Cricket Club in 1846 [2].

In 1848, Henry took over the Royal Oak from Joseph Harger and was the innkeeper until he died in 1857 after a long illness aged 59 [1].

On the 7th inst., after a long illness, aged 59 years, Mr Henry Ayrton, innkeeper, Settle.

SETTLE—CRICKET MATCH.—On Thursday, the 3d inst., a grand cricket match was played between the members of the Settle Cricket Club, and those of Gargrave. The wickets were laid at 10 o'clock in the morning, and after a severe struggle on both sides, till seven in the evening, for the honors of victory, the knights of Gargrave were proclaimed conquerors. After the fatigues of the day, the members of each club spent the evening joyously at Mr. Henry Ayrton's, New Inn, Settle, where an excellent supper was prepared and served up in the first order. Every guest seemed to manifest the greatest satisfaction with the evening's entertainment. The members of the Settle Club (much to their credit) by the good feeling shewn towards their opponents, almost convinced them that—  
"The pleasure is as great  
In being beaten as to beat."

In memory of Henry Ayrton of Settle who died October 7th 1857 aged 49 years. Also Henry Ayrton, son of the above who died September 27th 1852 aged 4 years, 8 months and 27 days. Also and an infant. Also of Mary Ayrton, wife of the above who died Jan'y 20th 1882 aged 76 years, B26 (The gravestone is now well hidden behind the tree)



THE U. O. OF MECHANICS.—On Whit-Wednesday, the United Order of Mechanics held their 9th anniversary. The members, to the number of 76, headed by the Rathmell brass band, walked in procession from the Royal Oak to church, where a most impressive sermon was preached to them by the Rev. W. F. Pierson. At the conclusion of divine service the whole of the members, including some few friends, adjourned to the Royal Oak, where a very sumptuous dinner was provided by the worthy hostess, Mrs. Ayrton, in her usual style, and to which, we need scarcely say, ample justice was done. After the removal of the cloth, the

After Henry's death, widow Mary continued to run the Royal Oak for a further 25 years. She did a good job according to this report from 1860 [2]. Henry's daughter, Elizabeth, from his first marriage moved in with the family. She had been living with her mother's parents until they died in 1853. Elizabeth died aged 43 and is probably buried in this grave. Interestingly Henry and Mary also had a daughter called Elizabeth.

Settle Graveyard Project

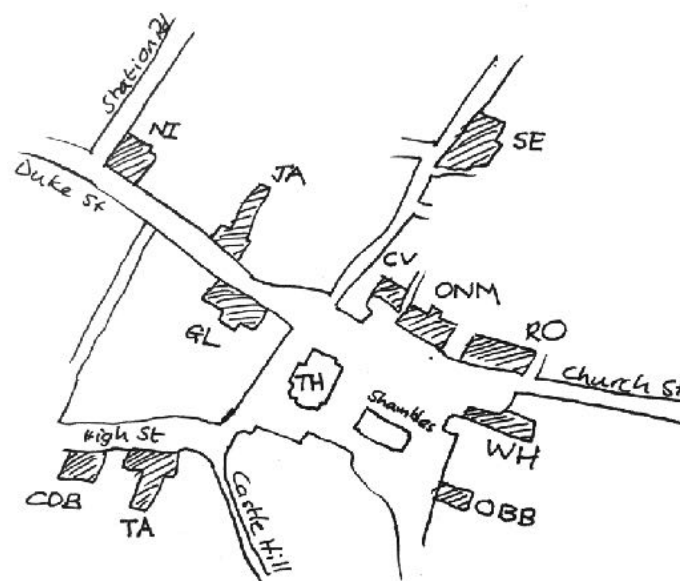
Henry and Mary are buried with their five year old son Henry, and infant daughter Ann who died in April 1844. Daughter Margaret, aged 14, may also be with them. Henry and Mary's daughter **Elizabeth** had a fascinating life - she married *John Cowburn* and then became the third wife of *Joseph Parker* of Lodge Farm.

Henry Ayrton's son **John Ayrton** is buried next to him in *grave B25*.

*In memory of John Ayrton of Settle who died December 25th 1872 aged 31 years. Also Henry son of John and Alice Ayrton who died February 2nd 1873 aged 6 months, B25*



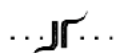
John married **Alice Batty**, daughter of Thomas and Alice Batty who are buried in the next *grave B24*. (The **Royal Oak** and **Crown Hotel** were run by other members of the Batty family during the 1880s.) John and Alice ran the **Craven Arms** (on the A65 at Giggleswick) for three years, until he died in 1872, aged just 31. John is buried with their infant son, Henry, also with a gravestone hidden behind a tree. After John died, **Alice** became the second wife of **Joseph Parker**, until she died in childbirth. Yes that's right – two Ayrton women that married the same Joseph Parker. Settle is a small place.



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

**RO** -(Old) Naked Man and Royal Oak, as now

**CV** - Crown Vaults/Inn





## Thomas Ayrton, and the incredible line of family graves

*In affectionate memory of Thomas Ayrton of Settle, who died June 26th 1881 aged 73 years. Also of Jane, wife of the above who died April 21st 1886 aged 74 years, B17*

Thomas was a Settle born son of a Carter. His grave is close to those of Henry Ayrton and his son John, but they are not (closely) related.

In 1832 Thomas married **Jane Jenkinson**, the daughter of a Settle butcher whose parents died when she was 10. This was an incredibly fertile pairing – Jane produced at least 12 children. Only one other mother in the graveyard produced more children. So Thomas had many mouths to feed, and took work wherever he could get it, usually describing himself as a labourer, agricultural labourer, grocer, and, in the last census, a blacksmith.

Amazingly only one son, **Thomas** (the first Thomas) died in infancy. Eldest daughter **Sarah (Sally)** didn't marry but the rest married and maintained families with working class jobs. Some moved away. Unsurprisingly there are several children in the *Old graveyard*.

Thomas' infant grandsons **Robert Wilson** died in 1874 and **Edward Ayrton** died in 1879. They may well have been the first occupant of this grave. Jane died after the new graveyard was opened in 1886 and so could not be buried with her husband. Instead she is buried in *Old A25* which backs onto Thomas' grave, a sure sign they wanted to be together.

In this grave *Old A25*, Jane is with eldest daughter Sally and some other relations:

Daughter **Elizabeth Ayrton** married **Daniel Wilson**, an Austwick blacksmith. Their infant grandchildren, **May** and **John Wilson**, (by son Thomas Henry) are in this grave.

Daughter **Hannah Ayrton** married **James Bradley**, a grocer. Their daughter **Mary Jane Bradley** married **William Donoghue**, a mechanic from Carlisle. William, Mary Jane and their 2 year old daughter **Hannah** are also in this grave.

That's Jane, Sally, William and Mary Jane Donoghue and their infant daughter Hannah and infants May and John Wilson. That's a full grave by anyone's reckoning. The stone and inscription were added upon the deaths of William and Mary Jane Donoghue.

*Affectionate remembrance of a dear mother Mary Jane Donoghue who departed this life 5th April 1958 aged 77 years. William Donoghue 1920 - 1967. Jesus I have promised to serve thee to the end, A25*

Other family members also chose to be buried directly behind Thomas' grave and you can see most of them in the photo above.

Thomas and Jane's son **William Ayrton** is buried with Mary Jane's daughter **Dorothy Donoghue** directly behind Jane and Sally in the unmarked *Old BX25*.

Thomas and Jane's daughter **Jane Ayrton** married **Edward Clark**, a shepherd and cattle drover. Jane died at the birth of her sixth child **Alice Isabel** who also died aged 1. They are buried in



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Old C25 directly behind the other three graves and Edward joined them when he died.

*In loving memory Jane Clark who died June 21st 1891 aged 41 years. Also of Alice Isabel their daughter who died June 29th 1892 aged 1 year. Also of Edward husband of the above who died March 12th 1920.*



The grave Old D25 contains unrelated people, but Old E24 and E25 contain family.

Old E25 contains James and Hannah (Ayrton) Bradley and their spinster daughter Alice, although Alice is not commemorated on the stone.

*In Loving Memory of James Bradley died Jany 18th 1899 aged 50 years. Also of Hannah wife of the above died July 8th 1919 aged 73 years. At Rest*

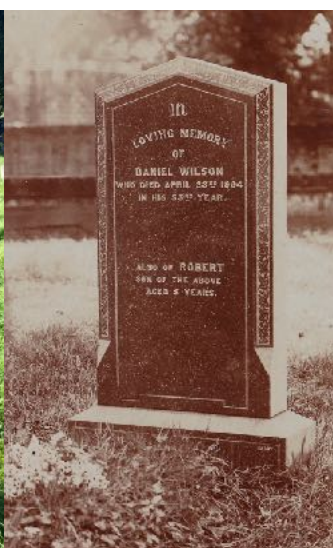
This fabulous photo [ph1] was from a collection of photos from the Wilson or Bradley families, visiting Gordale Scar - they were obviously close.

Old E24 contains James and Hannah's son James Bradley, a stonemason who became a Corporal in the Royal Engineers. At the time of the 1911 census James was serving in India with the '3rd sappers and miners'. In Portsmouth in 1908 he had married wife Elizabeth Jane who was his first cousin. Elizabeth Jane Wilson was the daughter of Elizabeth Ayrton and her husband Daniel Wilson who are, unsurprisingly, also in this grave. Elizabeth Jane is in the grave although not commemorated on the stone. They had a son named Wilson Bradley who later worked in the lime kilns.



*In Loving Memory of Daniel Wilson who died April 23rd 1904 in his 53rd year Also Elizabeth wife of the above died May 3rd 1928 aged 89 (or 85) years Also of Robert son of the above aged 5 years also James Bradley died April 26th 1931 aged 48 years*

The grave also commemorates five year old Robert Wilson, son of Daniel and Elizabeth who died in 1874 but is buried in the Ancient graveyard. An early photo [ph1] shows the inscription after Daniel's death, carefully leaving enough room for an inscription for Elizabeth.





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Thomas and Jane's son **Thomas Ayrton** emigrated to the States with his wife Isabella Turner, daughter of Edward Turner and Ellen Johnson - see *Johnson Turner*.



There is another, unrelated **Thomas Ayrton** buried in the Old graveyard in *Old F55*. This Thomas was a farmer born in Cray, near Kettlewell. He married **Hannah Agnes Nelson** who came from a Tunstall, a village near Bentham. They didn't have children. They farmed in Lawkland and retired to Prospect Terrace in Settle.

*In Loving Memory of Thomas Ayrton of 2 Prospect Terrace. Died March 20th 1921 Aged 67 years. Also Hannah Agnes his wife died April 1st 1943 aged 80 years*

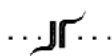


Hannah's sister **Mary Jane Nelson** married **William Thomas Harrison**, son of *Stanley Harrison*. They are buried in *Old E62*.

*In Loving Memory of William Thomas Harrison of Eldroth House who died September 18th 1902 aged 54 years. Also of Mary Jane wife of the above died March 29th 1927 aged 69 years. Also Gladys third daughter of the above died July 18th 1918 aged 25 years, Old E62.*



Hannah's mum Elizabeth (Bargh) Nelson is buried in the unmarked *Old EX43*.



*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'.*

*With thanks to relation Brenda Staines for her help with the compilation of this account.*

*Newspaper cuttings by kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Kendal Mercury, 2 – Lancaster Gazette*

*ph1 – photo credited to the Back in Settle facebook page, posted by Ben Mackenzie.*