

## Problems in the Ancient Graveyard

The Ancient graveyard was filling up – vestry records mention concerns as early as 1870. This was the case across the country, causing concerns about the spread of disease. In 1881 Rev Pierson and a churchwarden petitioned the Home Secretary, Sir William Harcourt, to issue an order for closure of churchyard. It was officially closed January 1882.

As a result, no-one was allowed to be interred in the Ancient graveyard meaning new burials could not be placed with their relations. The only choice was to be buried in the graveyard at Giggleswick instead. Unless, of course, you were wealthy. Those from wealthy families continued to be buried in family plots well into the 20th century.

Rev Pierson died 1883 after 46 years in post. His replacement, selected from over 20 candidates was *Rev Jackson Mason* who had served at Pickhill in Thirsk for 20 years. When his wife, *Eleanora Hammond* died he came to Settle. His salary was

*'not a lucrative one, only amounting to £174, inclusive of parsonage house'*

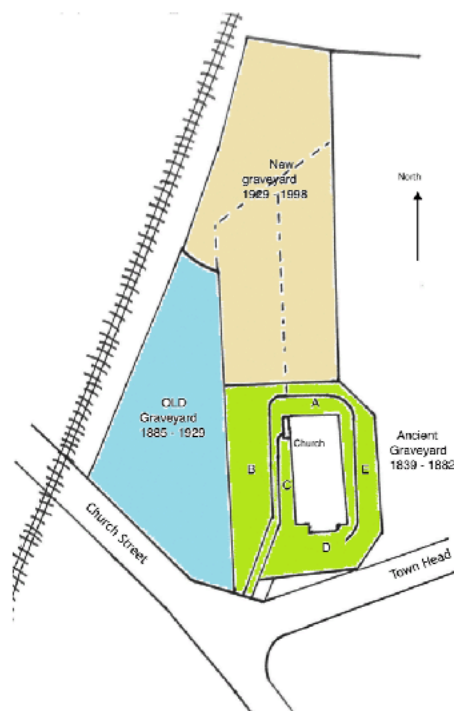
Jackson was from wealthy stock so the salary was probably not an issue. Interestingly Jackson was the uncle, via his wife, of *Lillie Langtry*, the well known socialite and mistress to Prince of



Wales, later Edward VII.

Jackson faced one main issue – the graveyards was still full. Families complained about being separated and the people at Giggleswick church was unhappy that their graveyard was filling up so rapidly. In 1884 *Dr Edward Atkinson*, the medical officer insisted that a new graveyard was required at Settle. Most people felt the obvious place was Townhead meadow, to the east of church. *'Until the 11th 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 . . . Those ladies had, however, declined to part with the land and those who were acting in the matter were reduced to a more limited scheme.'* This appeared to be a classic case of *'Not in my back yard'*. In the end Mr Hartley's triangle of land next to the railway was purchased for £350.

**SETTLE.**  
**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 upwards of twenty years.



## Settle Graveyard Project

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

cemetery. New ground was accordingly purchased, and the addition recently made to the old ground virtually settles the cemetery question for all time so far as Settle is concerned. The entire cost of the extension proved to be £1144 1s. 10d. For a parish containing less than four thousand inhabitants this may appear to be a considerable sum to expend on the project, and yet the entire outlay has been provided for solely by voluntary subscriptions and one offertory at the church. It is only fair to add that members of every religious denomination represented in the district have given generously to the fund.

It cost £1144 1s 10d, regarded a considerable sum for a parish of less than 4000 inhabitants. it '*settles the cemetery question for all time so far as Settle is concerned*'. In reality it lasted 45 years until 1929 when the New graveyard was acquired. '*It is only fair to add that*

*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.*

*members of every religious denomination represented in the district have given generously to the fund.*' This ensured burial space for Catholic and Methodist worshippers. We find them mixed in amongst all the other burials rather than in a separate area which is quite unusual.

Perhaps as a gesture of goodwill, '*Jackson Mason intimated his willingness to inter in the enlarged portion of the churchyard all paupers belonging to the township of Settle who die in the (Giggleswick) workhouse.* Indeed, the graveyard contains Union graves randomly distributed across the graveyard, as were victims of suicide.

## The Old Graveyard

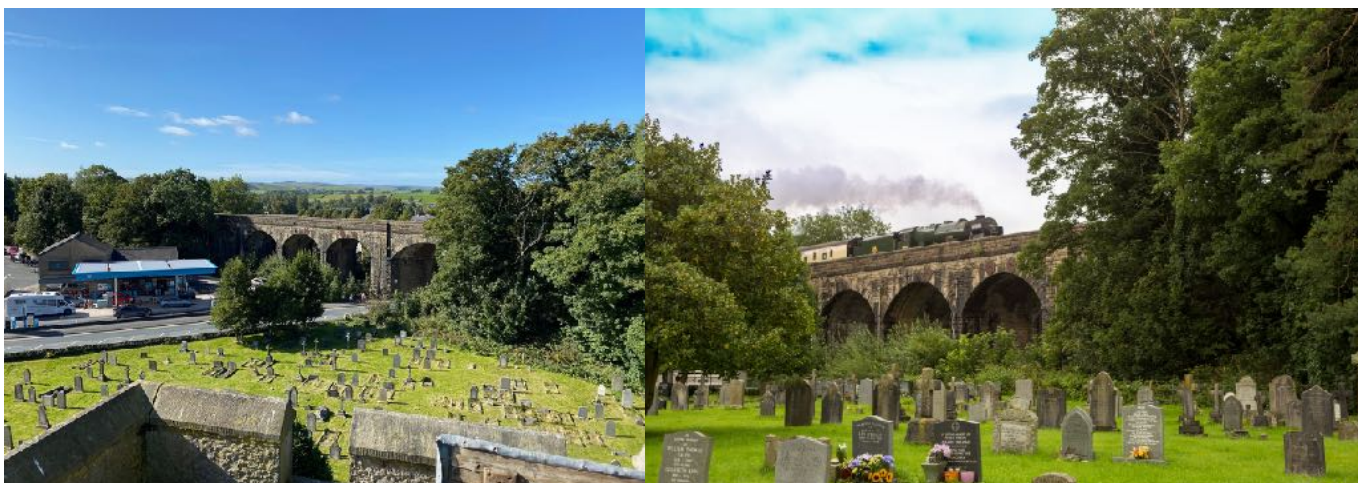
And so the Old graveyard was eventually in place ready for burials by November 1885. The railway embankment can be seen at the left of the photos. The photo on the left was taken before the Old graveyard was established with the gates to Townhead on the right. The photo on the right shows that the footpath to the mill had been removed and the lych gate installed. In addition the Old graveyard land extended closer to the gates of Townhead.





## Settle Graveyard Project

The Old graveyard nestles below the railway. If you are lucky you may see a steam engine saluting our burials on its way to Carlisle.



Families could now be buried in the same churchyard, if not in the same part of the graveyard. The first burial in the Old graveyard was a 5 month old nephew of one of the navvies, **Samuel Henry**, who died of pneumonia and was buried in the Ancient graveyard. Samuel and his nephew could not be buried together as the Ancient graveyard was closed (and they were not wealthy!). Incredibly the nephew was called **Henry Henry** and he is buried in an unmarked grave just in front of church door.



This gravestone commemorates the lives of **Thomas Ayrton** and his wife **Jane**. Thomas died before the Ancient graveyard was closed and Jane died after the Old graveyard was opened – she was actually buried in the kerbstone grave in the plot behind although commemorated on her husband's stone.

To mark Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887 funds were raised from wealthy folk for a new peal of eight bells. Jackson paid for one and another was bought from the estate of **Christopher Beverley** who had attended Giggleswick School and ran a brewery in Wakefield. A Beverley family crest is to be found on that bell.



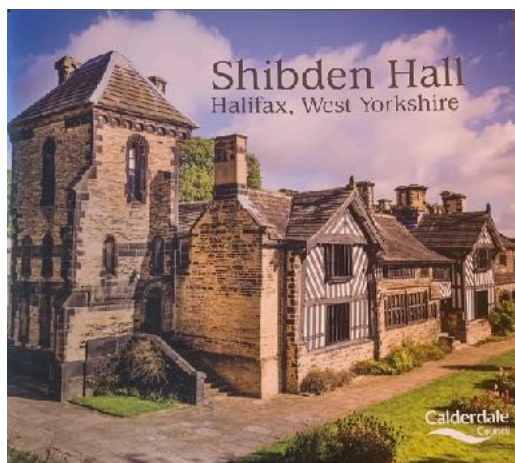
Jackson Mason died in 1888 to be replaced by **Rev Richard Craven Garnett**. Richard also lamented the situation of pew rents and even offered £20 of his own money each year to boost the endowment fund. Yet again he had little support from the local folk and accepted *'the process will be a slow one.'*

Richard oversaw arrangements when Settle became a Parish in its own right – according to the statute of 1853 this could only happen upon the death of the vicar at Giggleswick which took nearly 40 years. Richard's wife died during an outbreak of scarlet fever in 1893 and is buried in the Old graveyard. He remarried and moved to Worcestershire to be replaced by **Walter Edward Linney** in 1902 who remained in post for 19 years.

In 1909 there were 289 regular communicants. In 1912 a new organ was installed made by JJ Binns of Leeds. It is still going strong to this day.

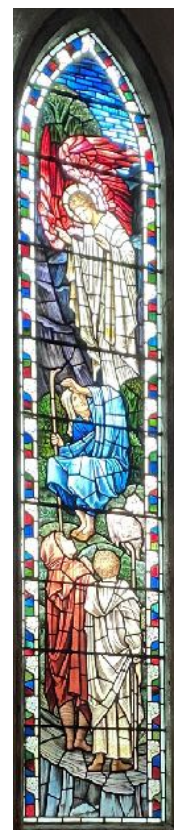
Soon after stained glass windows on the east side of the church were built. One, designed by William Morris from a Burne Jones design commemorates the lives of sisters **Maria Louisa** and **Alphonsine Sarah Jarry**. These spinsters were daughters of **Etienne Jarry** who started his life as chorister in the court Louis 16th at Versailles – his father was a steward there. When the French revolution took place Etienne managed to escape to serve in the French army during the Napoleonic wars. Etienne was injured

by a British sabre, captured and imprisoned in Northamptonshire. When hostilities ceased, he converted from Catholicism and married a local agricultural labourer's daughter, settling in Halifax. Daughter Alphonsine worked as a governess at Shibden Hall, tutoring **John Lister**, before moving to Settle on their parents' inheritance. The sisters were later described as *'Two elderly French ladies, devoted sisters, truly Cranfordian in aspect and, withal, intellectual, always carrying about*



*with them an air of old fashioned dignity which was a pleasure to witness.'*

The other window was dedicated to siblings **Sidney James** and **Doris Jane Procter**, a nurse, who both gave their lives in WW1. The window depicts St Elizabeth of Hungary, a patron saint of nurses. Doris Jane is also commemorated at York Minster where the five sisters window was dedicated to women who made the ultimate sacrifice in WW1.





## Contact the Graveyard Project:

The project is ongoing and it's always great to hear comments and ideas from interested folk, especially if you happen to be a descendant of one of our churchyard burials.

Email [settleresearch@gmail.com](mailto:settleresearch@gmail.com) to contact Sarah Lister with any queries about the project and to receive latest info and Tuesday Tales

Settle Graveyard Project Facebook Page for latest news, events and Tuesday Tales



Research findings are posted on this website. Follow the link to Settle Graveyard Project on the home page. These pages are updated weekly.

[www.dalescommunityarchives.org.uk](http://www.dalescommunityarchives.org.uk)

Findings are being added to the church burial records which are now available to the public online at

[www.settlechurch.uk/hagryd](http://www.settlechurch.uk/hagryd)



*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.*

*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 lives of people with **bold italicised names** have been researched as part of the graveyard project.*