

The Ellisons

James Ellison and first wife, **Elizabeth Sutton** had two sons, **Thomas** and **Richard Sutton Ellison**. James had another son, also **James Ellison (Jnr)** with his second wife **Elizabeth Chapman**. By the time of the 1844 Tithe survey James had significant assets in Upper Settle, including many properties in the triangle of land between Albert Hill and Greenhead Lane and '*Ellison's Croft*' with cottages, barns and other buildings [1].

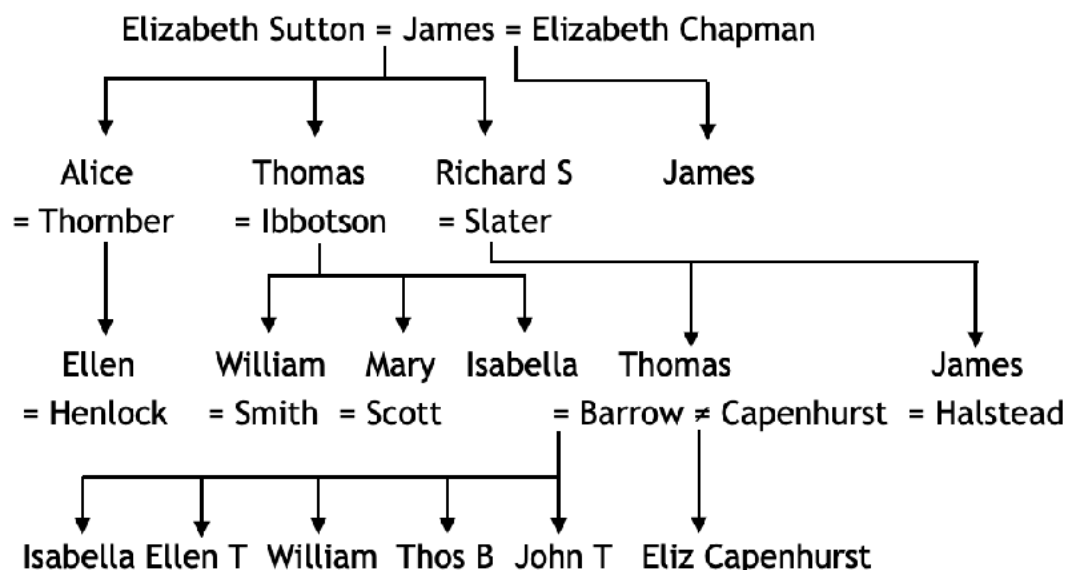
James (Jnr), born in 1800 was one of the men listed on the electoral records of 1832, when only 1 in 14 men were entitled to vote on the basis of their wealth with property in Kirkgate. He was a joiner and lived with his mother. When she died in her 80s he lived at the Talbot Inn. Middle class bachelors typically lived full time in one of the inns rather than live by themselves. There are no local burial records for James (Jnr), James (Snr) or his wives so they were probably born elsewhere and returned there for burial.

Son Thomas Ellison farmed in Upper Settle with his wife, **Isabella Ibbotson**, four daughters and then three sons. His main residence was about half way up the right side of Albert Hill leaving Settle. Isabella died at the birth of youngest, **Robert Ellison**, who also died. Another infant, **Mary**, had also died and two children, **Isabella** and **James Ibbotson Ellison**, died as young adults. The family have an impressive gravestone in Giggleswick graveyard reflecting the wealth of the family.

In memory of Thomas Ellison of Settle who died January 22nd 1854 aged 74 years. Also Isabella his wife who died January 31st 1838 aged 30 years. Also of Mary their infant daughter who died May 30th 1828. Also of Robert their son who died May 20th 1838 aged 4 months. Also of Elizabeth their daughter who died July 17th 1841 aged 16 years. Also of James Ibbotson their son who died at West Hartlepool February 16th 1857 aged 21 years.



Ellison Family Tree



Settle Graveyard Project

There were three surviving children. Son **William** farmed in Lancashire with his wife **Mary Ann Smith** and family. Thomas and Isabella's daughter **Mary** found her way to Rochester, Kent and, aged 35, married an Irish boiler fitter, **John Scott**. After his death Mary returned to Settle and lived with spinster sister Isabella who had lived in Duke Street. She had invested her inheritance in property in Chapel Street, amongst others and had an income from rent. Mary and Isabella were buried together in Settle graveyard, *Old D69* with another fine gravestone.



In Memory of Isabella Ellison born 28th March 1831 died 4th February 1909. Also of Mary Scott sister of the above born 17th April 1829 died 23rd November 1895, Old D69

Thomas' brother, **Richard Sutton Ellison**, and his wife **Jane Slater** were also buried in Giggleswick but without a gravestone, surprisingly. They had several children.

Thomas and Isabella's son **Thomas Ellison** worked as a butcher, also in Upper Settle but later moved to Chapel Street. In 1853 Thomas was dragged into an ongoing argument between postman **Thomas Oates** and tailor **Henry Snell**, witnessing Henry apparently spitting at Thomas Oates [1].

West Riding.—Oates v. Snell.—This was an assault case. Mr. Oates stated that he was the letter carrier, and when passing down Chapel-street, in Settle, on Friday, the 24th ult., he saw the defendant coming up the street from an opposite direction. Not being on very good terms with the defendant he endeavoured to avoid coming in contact with him. However, the defendant persisted in passing close by him, and in doing so spit in his face. Mr. Oates called Thomas Ellison, a butcher at Settle, who corroborated his statement. In reply to

Thomas Ellison was 38 when, in 1858, he married **Mary Ellen Barrow** from Liverpool, 16 years his junior, and they had seven children, although two died in infancy. Mysteriously at the time of the following census they had a daughter, Elizabeth, living with them born five years before the wedding. Church baptism records tell us that **Elizabeth Ellison Capenhurst** was the illegitimate daughter of **Louisa Matilda Capenhurst** from Leicester. Giving an illegitimate child 'Ellison' as a middle name typically indicates the father's name was Ellison. Presumably Louisa Matilda had come to Settle for work in the mills when she met Thomas Ellison. For some reason they chose not to marry. In 1856, when Elizabeth was three, Louisa Matilda married **Joseph Hague**, a Derbyshire railway labourer with whom she had a further ten children. If Joseph didn't like the idea of bringing up someone else's child, perhaps this is when daughter Elizabeth came to live with her father? Elizabeth was brought up as part of the Ellison family.

At an inquest at Colne, yesterday, on the body of **John Thornber Ellison** (55), retired tailor, 43, Hall-street, who was found dead in bed the previous night, it was stated that deceased had suffered from sickness and diarrhoea. The widow said deceased had complained that the war bread had made him ill. He refused to have a doctor.—A verdict of "Death from natural causes" was returned.

Thomas and Mary Ellen's sons **Thomas Barrow Ellison** and **John Thornber Ellison** became tailors, working in Bradford and Colne respectively. They both married but didn't have children. For some reason, at the time of the 1911 census John had taken up '*character reading phrenology*' (analysing characteristics from the bumps on people's heads) as an occupation. He died in 1918, aged 55, after the '*war bread had made him ill*', allegedly. It probably didn't help that he refused to see a doctor [2].

Siblings **Isabella**, **Ellen Thornber** and **William** stayed in Settle and lived together in Chapel Street for most of their lives. William served an apprenticeship with **William Capstick** to become a blacksmith. From there he worked for **John Delaney** at Horton Lime Works for nearly 34 years [5]. Sisters Isabella and Ellen Thornber Ellison lived with William running a dressmaking business.

THE MISSES ELLISON,
Practical Dress & Mantle Makers,
CHAPEL STREET, SETTLE.

*Ladies own material made up with economy and despatch, in the latest
 LONDON AND PARISIAN STYLES, combined with a perfect fit,
 at Strictly Reasonable Charges.*

A TRIAL RESPECTFULLY SOLICITED.

<p align="center">STYLE & FIT GUARANTEED,</p> <p align="center">THE FAVOUR OF A TRIAL RESPECTFULLY SOLICITED.</p>	<p align="center">The MISSES ELLISON, Practical Dressmakers, &c., CHAPEL STREET, SETTLE.</p> <p align="center"><small>Ladies' and Children's Costumes of every description, executed with promptitude and on reasonable terms, comparable with skilled work.</small></p> <p align="center"><small>The Misses Ellison also wish to intimate that they are now in a position to undertake work at parties own resi- dences, at reasonable charges.</small></p>
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Mr. W. Ellison, Settle

The interment took place at the Settle Parish Churchyard, on Wednesday, of Mr. William Ellison, of West View, Settle, who had passed away on the previous Sunday morning. Mr. Ellison who was in his 68th year, was a native of Settle, being the youngest son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Ellison, of Settle. He was educated at the Settle Church of England Schools, and on leaving was apprenticed as a blacksmith to the late Mr. Capstick, of Settle. Later Mr. Ellison became attached to the staff of Messrs. John Delaney Ltd., as blacksmith, at the Horton Lime works. He remained with that firm for nearly 34 years, retiring in 1929 owing to ill health.

The siblings' residence in Chapel Street actually belonged to their cousin Isabella Ellison (above). The siblings paid £10 per year for rent but also did sewing for Isabella, their landlady (for which they were paid 1 shilling per day) as part of the rental terms. However, in 1902, Isabella felt the sewing was not of good enough quality and evicted them, also taking them to court for half a year's rent. And she won [3]. They always say you should never do business with relations! The siblings moved to live in the newly built West View opposite High Hill Grove instead and Isabella, landlady, died in 1909.

Thomas and Mary Ellen died within a year of each other and were buried in *Old D77* with daughter Isabella (just a few grave plots from Isabella, the landlady). William and Ellen Thornber were buried together in the New graveyard *J15*

At the County Court held at Settle on Monday last there was only one case of importance which came before the judge. This was an action brought by Miss Isabella Ellison, of Duke-street, Settle, to recover £5, being half-year's rent of a house in Chapel-street, occupied until May last by the defendants, who counter-claimed for £5 5s. for work done.



In Loving Memory of Thomas Ellison, of Settle who died June 9th 1895 aged 73 years. Also of Mary Ellen, wife of the above, who died May 14th 1896, aged 59 years, Also of Isabella beloved daughter of the above, who died April 16th, 1917, aged 56 years Our Loss Though Great, Is Their Eternal Gain R.I.P., Old D77

In loving memory of William Ellison died July 25th 1937 aged 67 years Also his sister Ellen Thornber Ellison died May 8th 1962 aged 87 years "In God's keeping"



Thomas' first daughter, Elizabeth Capenhurst, was the only child to have a family of her own. She married labourer **Thomas Shaldrick/Sheldrick** from Suffolk and had 12 children. They lived in Proctor's Row next to King's Mill in Settle before moving to Barnoldswick.

James Ellison was another son of Richard Sutton and Jane Ellison and he had a promising career as a bookbinder, bookseller and stationer on High Street next to the Talbot Inn [SC]. In 1851 James had a problem with **Mark Beresford**, a well known drunk and 'bad penny'. James' parents were Beresford's landlord and James collected rent, upon which Beresford asked for some money back in lieu of Tithes paid. This quickly escalated into assault for which he was fined 40 shillings or a month in Wakefield House of Correction [4].

James was appointed as Librarian at the Mechanic's Institute in April 1854 [SC] but resigned at the beginning of 1857 shortly before his marriage, aged 51, to **Elizabeth Halstead**, a gardener's daughter. He was replaced at the library by **William Lister**.

In 1858 James was taken to court by the executors of **Stephen Wildman** to claim £31 7s and 9d against a promissory note made seven years before [4]. After deliberations for four hours, James won the case, ably defended by **Henry Robinson**. Perhaps it is not surprising that James and Elizabeth moved to Blackburn after this.

James Ellison was appointed Librarian in the Room of R. Threlfall. Mr. Langhorne was appointed to negotiate for the Reading Room, Library, and large Lecture Room, with the Company of Proprietors of the Hall of the Mechanics' Institute. A vote of thanks was given to Thomas Birkbeck, Esq., for his handsome present to the Mechanics' Institute of a Bust of

SETTLE COUNTY COURT.—There was rather a heavy cause list for the court held on Thursday, 22nd inst., but there was only one case which appeared to attract any attention, viz., Wildman's executors v. Ellison. The executors of Stephen Wildman, late of Stainforth, deceased, sued James Ellison, a bookbinder, at Settle, for £31 7s. 9d., alleged to be due for principal and interest on a promissory note, dated in 1851. Evidence was adduced on

Perhaps you may be wondering why Thomas Ellison, the butcher, decided to give two of his children the middle name Thornber? He had good reason. Thomas Ellison and Richard Sutton Ellison were the sons of **James Ellison** and **Elizabeth Sutton**. Thomas and Richard had an elder sister, **Alice Ellison**, who had the good fortune to marry **James Thornber** at Giggleswick by license in 1799. A licensed marriage was an expensive way of organising a quick marriage avoiding the three weeks of banns being read. It was routinely adopted by the wealthy. James and Alice had three sons and a daughter.

In the late 18th century Settle had five cotton mills, most powered by water, so were alongside the river at Langcliffe, Bridge End, King's Mill and Runley Bridge. During this boom time, the Thornbers had invested in several of the mills. James and his two brothers, **Thomas** and **John** took over Runley Mill from **James Brennand**. The Thornbers also ran King's Mill, Dog Kennel Mill (up on the hillside behind Upper Settle) and were partners at Bridge End Mill with **Giles Redmayne** who became a relation by marriage. Obviously, the mills were let out to

ASSAULTS.—At the Court-house on Tuesday last, before Thomas Clapham and William Robinson, Esqrs., James Ellison, of Settle, bookbinder, charged Mark Beresford, of the township of Long Preston, farmer, (who was defended by Mr. Cowburn,) with assaulting and beating him, the complainant, on the 6th instant. From the evidence adduced it appeared that the defendant, on that day, met the complainant and his mother at the Crown Inn, in Settle, for the purpose of paying them some rent. The defendant paid the rent, and pressed for a return of a payment which he had made in respect of tithes, and which he considered he ought not to pay. Complainant gave him 4s., which the defendant very quickly returned by throwing it at complainant. The latter thereupon stooped to pick up the money, and in doing so was struck by the defendant with his stick, who also seized the complainant by the throat. The defendant was fined 10s. and costs, and in default of payment was ordered to be committed to Wakefield House of Correction for a month. It was

**J. ELLISON,
BOOKBINDER, BOOKSELLER,
AND STATIONER, SETTLE,**

Respectfully begs leave to state that he has removed to the Shop near the Post Office, where he intends to carry on the above Business in all its branches, and hopes by strict attention, combined with moderate charges to merit a share of the public patronage and support which he will endeavour to do his best to deserve.

TO BE LET,
And may be entered upon on the 12th of May next, all that valuable and well frequented INN called the
TALBOT INN,
In Settle, with Stables, Barn, Shippens, and other premises adjoining. TWO PASTURES containing about 16 acres may be taken with the above.
**ALSO A
HOUSE AND SHOP,**
Now occupied by Mr. James Ellison, Bookseller. The present tenants will shew the premises.
For particulars apply to Mr. WILLIAM LEACH, Swaback, near Settle.

**COTTON MILLS.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,**
On Thursday the 25th day of October, 1810, at the house of Mr. THOMAS SILVERWOOD, the Spread-Eagle, in Settle, in the county of York, the sale to begin at six o'clock in the evening;
ALL that MESSUAGE or DWELLING-HOUSE, situate at Runley Bridge, in the township of Settle aforesaid, late in the possession of Mr. James Thornber, deceased; with the Barn, Garden, and Croft adjoining the same.
Also, ONE COTTON-MILL, of three floors, eighteen yards long, and nine yards and a half wide, with a Water-wheel twenty-one feet high, and four feet wide, and a fall of twenty feet; with Blacksmith and Joiners Shops
Also, one other BUILDING, of three floors, for Spinning Weir, eleven yards long, and seven yards and a half wide.
Also, one other BUILDING, of three floors, ten yards square, with a Water-wheel, nearly new, fifteen feet high, and four feet wide, and a fall of seven feet six inches.
Also, FOUR COTTAGES, and Garden adjoining the same. And also a RESERVOIR of two roods, All which said premises were late in the possession of the said James Thornber.
The above premises are situate about one mile from Settle, adjoining the turnpike-road from thence to Skipton.

others for the day to day running. The brothers decided to go their separate ways in 1807 and then James ran Runley Mill alone. Unfortunately, he died in 1810, aged 49, at which point the whole of Runley Mill buildings and machinery were sold [1]. James Ellison, Alice's father, dealt with the transaction.

Alice could easily have lived off her inheritance but, despite bringing up four children, was actually quite a spectacular businesswoman. At the time of the 1844 Tithe survey, Alice owned several properties in Upper Settle adjacent to that of her brothers including the two Upper Settle tanneries. She may have inherited this land from her father. She also owned the land around Runley Mill and a 51 acre plot behind the Lodge farm. Alice's son John took over Runley Bridge in 1824, as soon as he was 21, but died of smallpox in 1845. Sons Henry and James had already died in the early 1820s. Alice died in 1847, aged 70 and she was buried at Gisburn with her husband and three sons.

In Memory of James Thornber of Runley Bridge near Settle, who died 9 August 1810 aged 52 years, also Henry son of the above who died 1 May 1820 aged 19, also James son of the above who died 16 October 1822 aged 20 years, also John son of the above who died 9 May 1845 aged 40 years also Alice wife of the above James Thornber who died April 19th 1847 aged 70 years.



Gisburn church has relocated the gravestone that were in front of the church around the side of the churchyard. We have no proof of the original positions of the stones but James stone is currently positioned next to that of his relation Thomas Thornber.

The only heir was daughter **Ellen**, who became an extremely attractive marital proposition. Unsurprisingly, even though she was 41, on 20 December 1849 Ellen was swept up by **William Henlock** whose family had several links in Settle along with the **Stubbs** family and the Redmaynes of Taitlands in Stainforth. This was another wedding by license and was witnessed by **Dr John Crosby**, a friend of **Branwell Bronte** of Howarth. William was a wealthy farmer in Great Ouseburn between Harrogate and York and the Henlocks had good connections with the resident family at Harlow Carr. When he died in 1866 William's estate was worth nearly £5,000, worth millions at today's value. Ellen was well provided for until her death 20 years later.

It's no wonder the Ellison children were given the middle name 'Thornber', nor that the Ellisons owned 'Ellisons Croft' in Upper Settle.



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.

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

Settle Graveyard Project

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

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