

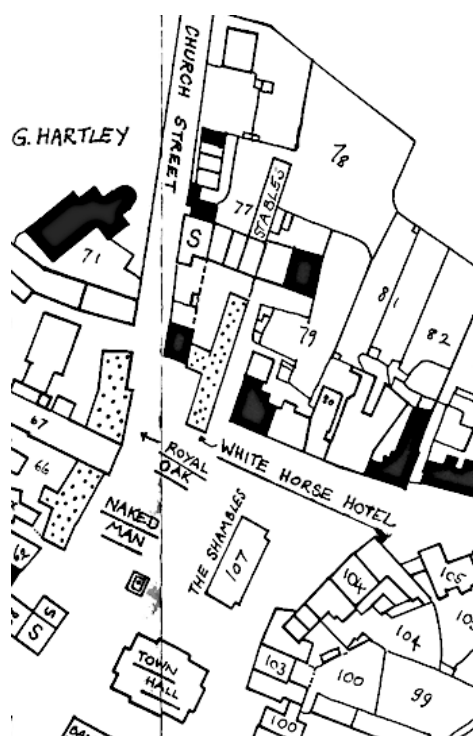
# The Howsons of Howson's Yard in Settle

**Howson's Yard** was a group of five cottages and gardens conveniently located off the Market Place, adjacent to the old White Horse Hotel — property 79 on the Tithe Map of 1844, owned at that point by **William Howson**. More recently it housed the Settle fire station but is now the back entrance to the Coop. So, who was William Howson?



**Francis Howson** and **Mary Ayrton** lived at Barrel Sykes Farm on the Langcliffe side of Settle in the late 18th century. They had a son **William Howson** had then four daughters, **Betty, Mary, Margaret** and **Alice**.

**William Howson** married **Mary Dodgson** in 1827 and they had four children. Mary was the illegitimate daughter of **Fanny Dodgson** and so their eldest daughter was called Fanny and eldest son was called Francis after William's dad. Then they had a son, **William**, who died in infancy and a son **John**. Poor Mary died at John's birth, aged 41. William made a living as a wine and spirit merchant in the Town Hall in Settle. In 1842 the diarist **William Lodge Paley** [WLP] remembered that William Howson stopped the building of a new cross in the Market Place as it was too near him and in December 1844 Mr Paley bought some rum from him to relieve pain. William and the family owned and lived at Howson Yard in Settle. Being an only son he is likely to have inherited the whole of his father's estate and seems to have put it to good use. Money was made by renting out the other cottages, two of which were tenanted by **Sylvester Cork**, wigmaker and the church sexton, **William Perkin** [SC].



Dec. 18—Mr. Brown, of Stainforth, is dead and is to be buried there—Mr. W. Howson has stopt the building of the New Cross, being too near him. Mr.

Dec. 1.—Much pain in body. Gotsome rum at Wm. Howsons, Settle, and wine at Wallers. Nephew George Paley wants

## TO BE LET, A COTTAGE

LATELY occupied by William Perkin. Apply to Miss Howsons, Settle.

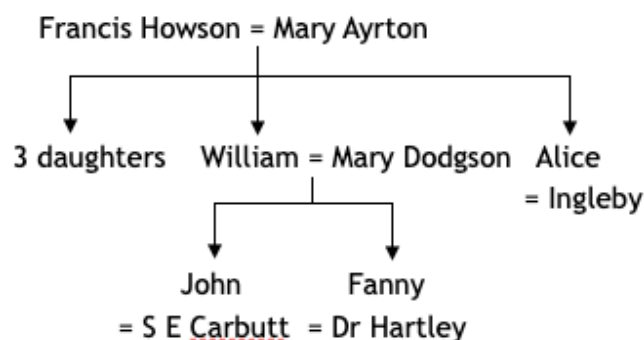
William brought up the children with the help of his spinster sisters Betty, Margaret and Mary and when he died in 1847, aged 62, the sisters continued to bring up their remaining children. Mary and William are buried together in Giggleswick graveyard with their infant son William with quite a grand stone, reflecting his wealth — he died with an estate worth nearly £1million at today's value.

**M.S. of Mary wife of William Howson of Settle who died May 29th 1836 aged 41 years. Also of William their son who died March 27th 1835 aged 8 months. Also of the above named William Howson of Settle who died August 28th 1847 aged 62 years. B7/60**

William's sister Alice Howson was the only one to marry and her



husband was **Thomas Ingleby** who was related to wealthy families in Austwick and Langcliffe Hall. Thomas lived at Crow Nest, just below the current site of Courtyard Dairy on the A65 when they married in 1832. Unfortunately he died in 1845, aged 45, leaving no heirs. Sister Betty moved in with Alice and by the time of the 1861 census all four sisters were there together and stayed until they died. They would still have collected rent from Howson's Yard. At the time of the 1851 census their servants included **William Grime** and **Mary Procter**, both of whom went on to work for the **Birkbecks** at Anley. The sisters were ladies who took an active part in the community raising money for good causes, such as the Church Missionary Society fair in which they helped to manage stalls and raise £34 10s and 0d [1]. *'The weather being fine there was a gay attendance of ladies and gentlemen and good service was rendered on the occasion by*



**CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY, AUSTWICK.—On Thursday and Friday, 1st and 2nd inst., being the annual Austwick fair, a bazaar, in aid of the above society, consisting of plain and ornamental needlework, was held in the School-room, which was tastefully decorated with flowers and evergreens. The various stalls were well supplied with a great variety of useful articles of clothing, &c., presented by the ladies and others of Austwick, Lawkland, Clapham, and the surrounding neighbourhood, including kind donations from distant friends. The weather being fine there was a gay attendance of ladies and gentlemen, and good service was rendered on the occasion by the celebrated Austwick quadrille band, who played, at intervals, many lively airs, and made it quite a gala day. Miss Clapham, Austwick Hall; Miss Ingleby, Lawkland Hall; Miss F. Howson, Crow Nest; Miss E. Metcalfe,**

*the celebrated Austwick Quadrille band who played many lively airs and made it quite a gala day.'* Betty died in 1866, aged 78, Margaret and Mary died within two months of each other in 1877 aged 86 and 83 and Alice was the last sister to die in 1883, aged 86. They may all have been buried in Clapham graveyard.

Crow Nest was rented out until the 1890s when nephew **John Howson** and his wife **Sarah Elizabeth Carbutt**, in their 50s, came to live there after their travels. What had they been to before this?

**John Howson** was William and Mary's youngest son born in 1836 in Settle. He found work in Birkenhead as a merchant's clerk and book keeper. In 1858 he married Sarah Elizabeth Carbutt, the daughter of another clerk — perhaps John may have worked with her father?

Liverpool had developed into the country's second capital, importing cotton from the American South, the customs house being the largest contributor to the British Exchequer. As a result the population of Liverpool expanded, boosted by thousands of victims of the Irish famine, housed in quickly erected crowded and shoddy buildings. It was in the middle of this hub of activity that John and Sarah Elizabeth had a son, **William Howson**, born a year after their marriage. Unfortunately, aged one month, he became part of an appalling high statistic of mortality in Liverpool brought about by disease which spread rapidly through the city.

In 1870 John was found on board an iron screw steam cargo ship *Etna* working as the ship's purser, sailing between Liverpool and the States. There were about 50 crew. The purser is responsible for all financial management on the ship including cargo manifests and day to day running of the ship. John was paid a salary of £9 for a maximum 12 month tour, the same as the ship's surgeon and more than almost every other member of the crew except the captain. The ship's records detail



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the daily rations budgeted for the crew — bread, beef, pork, flour peas and a small amount of tea sugar and water, and daily lime and lemon juice, as required by law, to prevent scurvy.

There are no further census records for John or Sarah but they returned to live in Crow Nest during the 1890s. We can only assume John and Sarah Elizabeth lived the majority of their lives abroad, probably in the States.

Newspapers tell us that in 1894 John was elected a sideman for Austwick Church at the Austwick and Lawkland Vestry meeting [1]. By 1896 John had been elected Chairman of the Lawkland Parish Council and in 1898 wrote to the Rural District Council about their provision for typhoid victims, but was told it was not their responsibility! [3]. John also collected rainfall data at Crow Nest, published in the Settle Almanac in 1898 [LSA]. August was wet!

Scale of Provisions to be allowed and served out to the Crew & to the daily issue of Lime and Lemon Juice and Sugar, or case required by Law.										
	Bread lb.	Beef lb.	Pork lb.	Flour lb.	Peas pint.	Rice lb.	Tea oz.	Coffee oz.	Sugar oz.	Water qts.
Sunday .....	1	1 1/2	1	1 1/2	1		8	2	2	3
Monday .....	1	1	1 1/4	1 1/2	1					
Tuesday .....	1	1 1/2	1	1 1/2	1					
Wednesday ..	1	1	1 1/4	1 1/2	1					
Thursday ...	1	1 1/2	1	1 1/2	1					
Friday .....	1	1	1 1/4	1 1/2	1					
Saturday .....	1	1 1/2	1	1 1/2	1					

**VESTRY MEETING.**—The annual meeting for the election of churchwardens for Austwick and Lawkland was held in the vestry of the Parish Church on Tuesday evening, the Vicar in the chair, when the following were appointed:—Messrs. Fred. Mattinson and James Capstick for Austwick, and Mr. W. Dawson for Lawkland, as churchwardens; and Mr. Joseph Robinson and Mr. John Howson, of Crow Nest, as sidemen for Austwick.

**The Cases of Typhoid.**—A long letter was read from Mr. Howson, of Crow Nest, Lawkland, complaining that two people had died of typhoid fever, owing, as Mr. Howson alleged, to want of proper attention. The Clerk was instructed to inform Mr. Howson that it was not part of the Council's duty to provide medical care and nursing for persons who were in a position to pay for it themselves; and that although the cases were infectious ones they could have adequate nursing and proper attention at home, and that an offer to take the cases to the infectious hospital had been declined.

### RAINFALL AT CROW NEST. 1896-7.

Kindly supplied by John Howson, Esq.

(Diameter of Funnel, 8 in.  
Rain Gauge Height) Above ground, 1 ft.  
(of top.) Above sea level, 570 ft.

Month.	Total Depth.	Greatest fall in 24 hours.		No. of days on which 0.1 or more fell.
1896.	Inches.	Depth.	Date.	
November ....	1.50	0.49	7th	14
December ....	5.30	.65	27th	23
1897.				
January .....	1.24	.33	7th	14
February ....	3.13	1.00	25th	18
March .....	6.30	.80	12th	26
April .....	2.31	.44	17th	13
May .....	2.19	.60	29th	14
June .....	4.31	.64	19th	18
July .....	1.57	.33	20th	13
August .....	7.46	1.32	5th	22
September ....	4.46	.83	1st	19
October .....	2.56	.85	15th	11
Total .....	42.83			205

In 1899, a year before he died, John advertised Crow Nest 'To Be Let'. It had three reception rooms and good facilities in the main house and for the servants, inside and out, with lavatories, hot and cold water. When John died he left Sarah Elizabeth a generous estate worth millions today's value. She lived in West End, Long Preston until she died eleven years later.

Despite his recent arrival from overseas, John was sufficiently well thought of to get a mention in the Settle Almanac when he died in 1900, aged 63 after a few days' illness [LSA]. It was on the same day as a severe snowstorm 'which rendered any locomotion impossible for some time; the snow in many places reaching eight feet in depth.' [LSA] That's some snow!

**In loving Memory of John Howson of Crow Nest NATUS DE XIX MAIA MDCCCXXXV1 (born 19 May 1836) OBIT IIE XV FEBRUARIO MDCCCC (died 15 February 1900) ANNO CHRISTI also Sarah Elizabeth beloved wife of the above NATA AD . .NON NOVA MDCCCXXXV (born 1835) OBIT AD XV KAL JAM MCXI (died 21 December 1911) Until the day dawn and the shadows pass away, Old D44**



## Settle Graveyard Project

John elder brother **Francis Howson** took Holy Orders and served around the country including some years as curate of Arncliffe. He died suddenly, aged 60, in Aldershot, Surrey. John's sister **Fanny Howson** married **James Hartley** who was one of the at least ten children of **John Hartley** at Catterall Hall in Giggleswick. James became a surgeon working from the Market Place in the building later occupied by **Dr Charles William Buck**. During the 1870s James' workload increased considerably dealing with the navvies building the Settle and Carlisle railway. In 1871 James worked with **Edwin Septimus Green**, the surgeon appointed to the railway, to amputate the lower leg of the unfortunate **Alfred Johnson**, a tunneller [1]. There had been a fall of earth at the 'eleventh bridge cutting' (probably the Helwith Bridge Cutting) in which his foot 'was nearly torn off'. He was immediately conveyed to the 'hospital', 'a temporary wooden erection' provided by the contractor [1]. Alfred would have been transferred to the hospital in a horse-drawn covered wagon. Let's hope they had some laudanum. Alfred's foot was amputated but it seems Alfred survived! Other navvies were not so lucky. James had to certify the death of other navvies including Irish navvy **Thomas Ferris** who died of pneumonia and pthithis (tuberculosis) which was the most common cause of death for the navvies.

ACCIDENT.—Alfred Johnson, an excavator, employed in the construction of the new Settle and Carlisle Railway, met with an accident on the 6th inst., whilst at work in the "eleventh bridge cutting." The accident was caused by a fall of earth by which the foot of the poor fellow was nearly torn off. He was, immediately after the occurrence, conveyed to the Hospital, a temporary wooden erection, provided by Mr. Ashwell, the contractor, and Drs. Green and Hartley were sent for who found it necessary to amputate the injured limb below the knee, which was accordingly done. We understand the man is progressing favourably.

James and Fanny retired to Carshalton, Surrey to be with their sons **Reginald** and **Alfred**, both of whom died in their mid 30s. Reginald, a commercial traveller was married and had five children but died with only £15 to his name. Oh dear.



*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](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'.*

*Settle Graveyard Project*

*Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Lancaster Gazette, 2 – Daily Gazette for Middlesborough, 3 – Lancaster Standard, 4 – Cheshire Observer*

*WLP – the diaries of William Lodge Paley, LSA – Lambert's Settle Almanac, with the kind permission of the North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust*