

George Johnson, earthenware dealer

In affectionate remembrance of George Johnson of Settle, who died April 24th 1863, aged 57 years. Also Mary wife of the above who died March 12th 1881 aged 75 years. Also Elizabeth, mother of the above who died March 2nd 1870 aged 87 years, E4



George Johnson was born in Austwick near Settle in 1805, to **Michael Johnson**, a weaver and his wife **Elizabeth Grime**. George moved to Slaidburn as a young man and worked as a servant. He married a much younger farmer's daughter from Bowland, **Alice Redmayne** in 1846, then describing himself as a horsebreaker.

George and Alice moved to Lancaster and had two sons and a daughter. Alice died in 1852, aged 29, when the youngest child, **Elizabeth Swale**, was less than one year old. George left his job as a coachman in Lancaster and moved to Settle with the young children, nearer his family who were now living in Langcliffe, weaving at the mill. Records for their children Elizabeth and William fizzle out at this point – it's a common name so difficult to track.

In 1856, George married **Mary Swale** who was the eldest of many children of **Thomas Swale**, a shoemaker from Clitheroe and his wife Ann Clark. Mary appeared to have been brought up by her Swale grandparents in Austwick with her cousin, Thomas Swale, the eldest child of Hannibal Swale and his wife Elizabeth Procter. Mary continued to live with Thomas Swale even after his marriage to Margaret Shepherd, a maternal cousin of *Obadiah Baynes*. Thomas made his living as an earthenware dealer, and Mary will have shared the work of the trade. So, by the 1861 census George and Mary were living in Settle Market Place working as earthenware dealers.

After George died in 1863, Mary continued to run the business along with George's younger son Thomas in Duke Street. Mary's sister **Hannah** was living with them. When Mary died in 1881, her sister Hannah continued the business with another sister **Jane**. *Thomas Leeming* and his family were close neighbours and his family are buried very close to the Johnson grave.

Mary's brother Thomas Swale was an elusive character. He only appears in records after his second marriage in Giggleswick church 1851 to Alice Clark from 'Lancashire' who could have been a relation via Thomas' mother, Ann Clark. Thomas, a widower, was 53 and Alice was 48. Thomas ran a shoemaking business at the Duke Street end of Chapel Street in Settle and later in Bishopsdale Court off Kirkgate.

Boot and Shoe Mart, Duke Street, Settle.

THOMAS · SWALE,

BOOT and SHOEMAKER,

Returns his sincere thanks to the public of Settle and neighbourhood for past favours, and wishes to inform them that he always keeps on hand a large and well-selected stock of

BOOTS, SHOES, & SLIPPERS,

which are selected carefully from houses that are noted for the quality of their productions.

The Bespoke & Repairs Trade receive prompt attention.

BOOT & SHOE MART, DUKE ST., SETTLE.

THOMAS SWALE,

BOOT AND SHOEMAKER

Returns his sincere thanks to the Public of Settle and neighbourhood for past favours, and wishes to inform them that he always keeps on hand a large and well-selected stock of

BOOTS, SHOES, & SLIPPERS,

Which are selected carefully from houses that are noted for the quality of their productions.

The Bespoke and Repairs Trade receive the most careful attention.

Settle Graveyard Project

Thomas and Alice died within days of each other in December 1902 and have an impressive gravestone in Old F42

In memory of Thomas Swale died Dec 19th 1902 in his 83rd year Also Alice wife of the above Died Dec 15th 1902 in her 80th year. United in life and divided in death

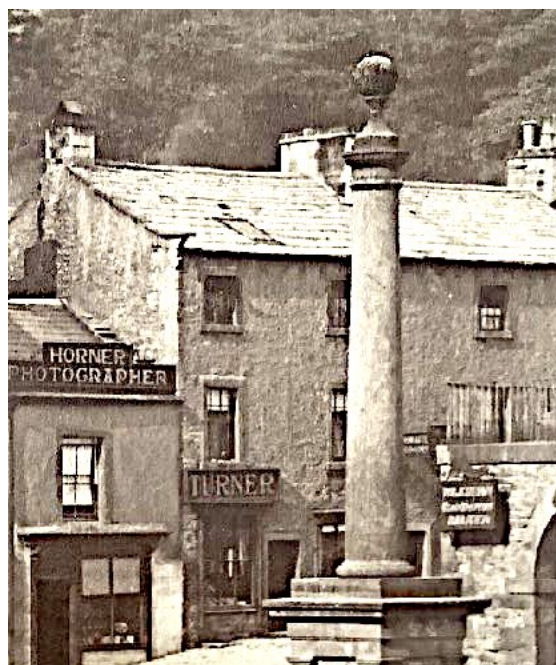
Meanwhile, back with George Johnson, his mother Elizabeth moved in with her daughter Ellen and son-in-law, Edward Turner, at Langcliffe. Edward had a prestigious job, being the 'Engineer and Gas Fireman In the Cotton Mill' so would have had plenty of dealings with William Clayton, the mill owner at that time. Unfortunately, the Langcliffe Mills went bust in the 1850s so Edward became an ordinary labourer in Settle for the rest of his life. Edward and Ellen had a daughter, Agnes Turner, who died in infancy and is perhaps buried in this grave. Edward and Ellen are buried in the unmarked Old AX72 together with Edward's 90 year old brother John Turner who had lived with them all his life and was 'deaf and dumb from birth'. Edward and Ellen's daughter Isabella married Thomas Ayrton, a joiner and son of Thomas Ayrton. They took their family to Lancaster.



Edward and Ellen had a son Robert, a tailor and hatter, who traded from the Market Place next to the Horner's photography business [ph4,LSA]. Robert married



Elizabeth Huthersall whose parents had run a variety of inns in Ingleton, Selside and also the Talbot Inn in Settle. All was going well until 1894 when Robert was declared bankrupt [2]. After this Robert worked as a tailor's assistant.



RE ROBERT TURNER.—Friday, the 17th instant, was the day fixed for the public examination of this debtor at the County Court, Bradford. After being examined by the Official Receiver, and cross-examined by Mr. T. Brayshaw, solicitor, on behalf of a number of creditors, the bankrupt's examination was declared closed by the Registrar. The dividend likely to be declared depends very much on the admission of certain large claims, the validity of which the debtor does not admit.

Elizabeth Huthersall's sister Annie had married Edwin Towler, a corn merchant and son of William Towler, who lived at Rock House on Castle Hill. When Edwin died in 1897, Robert and Elizabeth (Turner) and her mother Mary joined Annie (Towler) at Rock House. In May 1902, Rock House (now called Ivy House) was put up for sale [1]. It had sitting and drawing rooms, four bedrooms, bathroom and WC, hot and cold water throughout the house, conservatory, cellar,

SETTLE.

VALUABLE FREEHOLD PROPERTY FOR SALE.

Richard Turner & Son

Will Sell by Auction at the Craven Assembly Rooms Settle, on Tuesday, the 20th day of May, 1902, at three o'clock in the afternoon prompt, subject to such conditions of sale as will be then and there produced, all that desirable

FREEHOLD PROPERTY situated in Castle Hill, Settle, known as Ivy House, in the occupation of Mr Robert Turner, containing sitting and drawing rooms, four bedrooms, bath room, w.c., with hot and cold water laid throughout the house, conservatory, cellar, scullery, washhouse, garden, and other appurtenances, together with the shop and ware house adjoining, in the occupation of Mr John Handby.

The above property is well situated, and affords an excellent investment to capitalists.

Further particulars may be obtained on application to the Auctioneers at their offices, Bentham, R.S.O. Yorkshire, or to J. H. Vant, Esq., solicitor, Settle.

Settle Graveyard Project

scullery, washhouse and outhouses - a sizeable property. (*John Handby* was living in another part of the property.) The sale was perhaps related to Robert's health - he died later that year aged just 47 [LSA].

28 Death of Mr. Robert Turner, Tailor, of Rock House, Settle, at the age of 47 years.

Somehow, Elizabeth, her mother and the boys stayed in Rock House. Robert and Elizabeth's eldest son, **Harold Turner** died an infant in May 1885. He was one of the last burials in the Ancient Graveyard before it was closed due to being 'dangerously full'. Harold is commemorated on his parents' stone. Robert, Elizabeth and youngest son **Charles Frederick Turner**, who died an infant in 1895, are buried in the Old graveyard C59.



In Loving Memory of Robert Turner died Dec 28th 1902 aged 47 years. Elizabeth, his wife who died March 1928, aged 67. George Edward their son drowned in the North Sea Sep 22nd 1914 Aged 25 years. Also of Harold and Charles who died in infancy. Old C59

The stone also commemorates the life of their son **George Edward**.

George [ph1] had the dubious distinction of being the first Settle man to give his life in the war. He was reported missing after the sinking of *HMS Hogue* by a German submarine. George had worked for the Post Office in Settle until 1912, and then became a wireless operator for the navy, an extension of his telegraphy skills. He had been a member of Settle choir and the Settle Amateur Operatic Society. He had only been on board *HMS Hogue* for seven weeks when he died. His body was not recovered.



HMS Hogue [ph2] was an 'armoured cruiser', since described as 'the most unfortunate and unsuccessful type of warship used by the navy' despite being quite new - *HMS Hogue* was built in 1902. They were large and quite unwieldy, especially in rough seas. However September 22nd 1914 was a day of calm seas. German submarine 'U-9' was one of the earliest German submarines. Its captain, aged just 32, Kapitänleutnant Otto Weddigen, got within 600 yards before firing a single torpedo at *HMS Aboukir*, a sister ship to *HMS Hogue*. The ships were meant to zig zag to avoid being targeted by submarines, but this was widely ignored as it made them much slower and no submarines had been seen in the war so far. Assuming the damage was due to a mine, *HMS Hogue* and *HMS Cressy* were ordered to move closer to the *Aboukir* to rescue its crew, thus becoming new sitting targets for the submarine. All three ships sank within an hour. 837 men were rescued, but 1,397 were lost. Just 48 were lost from the *Hogue*, but George was one of them.



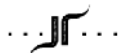
TURNER, W.T. Operator George Edward, 497 W.T.S. R.N.R. H.M.S. "Hogue." Killed in action with submarine in North Sea 22nd Sept., 1914. Age 25. Son of Mrs. E. Turner, of 20, Ella St., Woodhouse Lane, Leeds, and the late Mr. R. Turner, of Settle. 8.

In the history books, this disaster is regarded as avoidable and the result of poor decision making. The British Press initially described the sinking 'by a whole German flotilla' but the Germans celebrated the sinkings by a single submarine [ph3] The British were rightly shocked, questioning the supremacy of the British Navy for the first time. Admirals got the blame for persisting with a patrol that was dangerous and of limited value against the advice of senior sea-going officers.



Settle Graveyard Project

Church vestry records recorded, *'It is to be feared that George Edward Turner, a former member of our choir, an old Confirmation candidate, and formally a scholar in our Sunday and Day Schools, has gone down in one of the cruisers that were torpedoed by German submarines last week. he was known to be on 'The Hogue' as one of the wireless operators, and as his name has not appeared in any lists of the rescued, it seems likely that his life has been surrendered in the service of his country.'*



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'.

Newspaper cutting with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Lancaster Gazette, 2 – Lancaster Guardian

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

ph1 - photo credited to Craven's Part in the Great War by the Craven Community Projects Group 2006, ph2 – credited to Wikipedia, ph3 – padresteve.com, ph4 - credited to the Back in Settle Facebook site.