

The Horner family, tinsmiths, decorators and pretty good photographers

The lives of Settle's Horner family have been well documented by the North Craven Heritage Trust and others. They Horners came from Pateley Bridge and were a talented and creative family with several tinsmiths and decorators. **Thomas Horner** and wife **Ann Taylor** brought their children over to the Austwick/Feizor area during the early 1800s. Several of their offspring populate our graveyard. Their daughter **Ann** married into the wonderful *Thistlethwaite* family.

Thomas and Ann's son **William Horner**, a tinner and gunsmith, married **Jane Leech** in 1803 and lived in Feizor. They had 13, yes 13 children. During the 1840s, William and Jane moved to Settle to join their children **Michael**, **Mary**, **Jane**, **Thomas** and **Elizabeth** who had already moved into the town. Jane died in 1853, aged 63 and in 1854 William married widow **Mary (Whiteley) Wearing**. William, who died in 1866, aged 81 was buried with both wives in the Ancient graveyard, possibly in the same grave as son Michael, *Ancient B27*.

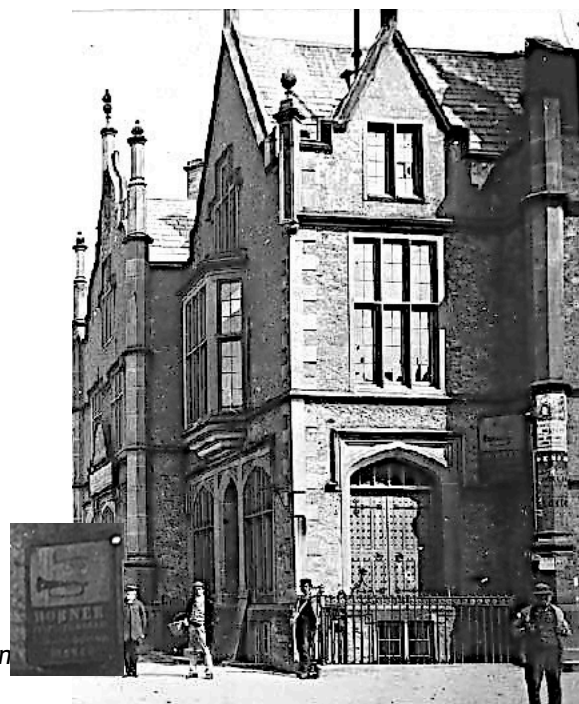
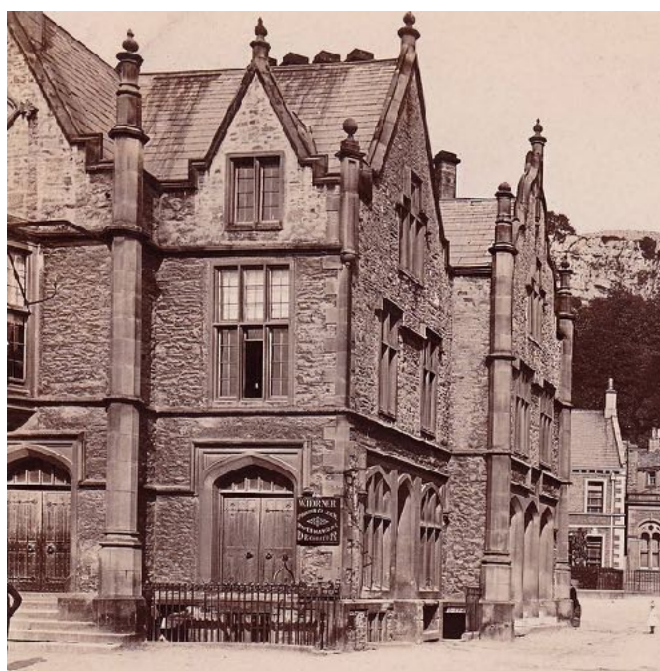


William and Jane's son, **Michael Horner's** [ph1] incredible claim to fame is that he discovered Victoria Cave on the hills behind Settle in 1837 when he was 24. According to his grandson, **Tanny Jerome**, in an article in the Craven Herald, 'I have often heard my aunt tell the story of how her father went rabbiting above Langcliffe one morning. They went to the Fox Holes and had a dog that went in one hole and out the other. Michael squeezed himself through the hole which was only the size of a horse collar; he found a cave. For the next few weeks after, he explored the cave and found, with other things, a bone

brooch. He gave them to **Joseph Jackson** for whom he worked.' Joseph took the very first early photographs of the cave and its findings and used these to obtain permission to explore the caves. Joseph realised its archaeological significance and it became a life's work for him, according to George Brown [LSA]. Michael's interest waned but his role should not be forgotten.

MR. JACKSON'S WORK IN THE CAVE.

The Cave was discovered by Mr. Michael Horner, then of Langcliffe. After he had made a few visits to it he spoke of his discovery to Mr. Joseph Jackson, whose servant he then was. Mr. Jackson who had already interested himself in questions of local geology soon saw that the Cave was one of exceptional importance. Mr. M. Horner's interest in the Cave soon ceased; Mr. Jackson's lasted to the end of life.



In 1844, aged 31, Michael married **Ellen Coulton**, ten years his junior and they lived on Castle Hill in Settle. He ran his busy shop in the north west corner of the Town Hall and stood at the corner for a fantastic photo opportunity [ph7,8], his shop advertised with a sign for a brass musical instrument. They had five daughters, although **Catherine** died in infancy. Michael and Ellen died in the 1870s. Michael left a legacy for widow Ellen 'as long as she remained a widow' – she died within a year.



In loving memoriam of Michael Horner of Settle who died Feby 11th 1878 aged 65 years. And also Ellen the beloved wife of the above who died March 8th 1879 aged 53 years. Also Catherine Ann their daughter who died in infancy March 21st 1855, Ancient B27

Daughter **Mary Horner** continued living in Castle Hill for another 46 years, making a living as a dressmaker. Daughter **Elizabeth Horner** married **Hermann Paul Jerome**, a German wig maker with a shop in Ripon although Elizabeth lived in Settle. Their son **Tanny Jerome** ran a photographic shop on the far end of the Shambles. In his spare time Tanny, 'a little man with dark brown eyes' was busy. Cinema came to Settle in 1912 at 'The Picture House' in the Assembly Rooms on Kirkgate (now a cafe) and Tanny was the manager and licensee. He showed silent films with projectionist **Harold Smith**. In 1927 the cinema moved to Victoria Hall and became known as 'The Picturedrome' and 'Kirkgate Kinema', and later the 'Vic'. In 1939 **Arthur Graham** opened the 'NuVic' on the other side of the Market Place, where the Coop is now, taking over from Tanny. Tanny also ran a draper's shop behind the Shambles and was known to be an unofficial bookie. He retired to the Isle of Man.



Three of Michael and Ellen's daughters are buried together in **OLD G13**. Spinster **Mary**, **Elizabeth Jerome** and **Jane**, who married farmer **Richard Grimshaw** when she was in her 50s. Their other daughter **Margaret Ellen** moved to Blackburn where she married **William Taylor**, a shoemaker and had ten children.



In loving memory of Jane Grimshaw died Oct 25th 1907 aged 59 years. Also Mary Horner died Aug 29th 1924 aged 78 years. Also Elizabeth Jerome died Jan 18th 1933 aged 83 years. Sweet is the calm of paradise the blessed. Old G13

Going back a generation, William and Jane's daughter, **Elizabeth Horner**, married **Christopher Stephenson Watkinson** and then **Oliver Carr** – their story is provided separately.

William and Jane's son **Thomas Horner**, born in 1818, married **Ann Taylor** in 1841. His grandfather **Thomas Horner** also married an **Ann Taylor** and the Anns could also be related. **Ann** died soon after the birth of their eleventh child, **Robert**, who also died at the same time. They are buried in an unmarked grave in the Ancient graveyard together with son **William Horner** who died aged 17. Undeterred, **Thomas** married again, this time to **Elizabeth Smith** who was nearly thirty years his junior and so was able to give him two further daughters – he was 62 at the birth of the youngest **Lizzy Selina** who died a toddler.

Thomas was a painter and decorator, initially working from Belle Hill in Giggleswick. During the 1850s he moved to the Market Place to establish a business that would last for generations. In 1863 he moved to the tiny property opposite the end of the Shambles [ph3,7], previously occupied by **Obadiah Baynes** and currently



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the shop Field to Home.

After Thomas died, Elizabeth stayed in the Market Place making a living from running a boarding house. Thomas and Elizabeth's elder daughter **Bell** married **William Henry Barclay**, a clerk on the 6. William's maternal grandad was **Henry Armistead**, the innkeeper of the Golden Lion. Bell died at the birth of her daughter **Lilian Selina Barclay**, so Lilian was looked after by grandmum Elizabeth. Lilian became a school teacher until she married **James Vincent Parker** but died aged 31 — Lilian and James are buried in the unmarked *Old grave JX49*. Incidentally, James' second wife was **Eva Kelly**, the niece of Paul Ignatius Kelly, above. She was buried alone in the *New grave G72*. Thomas, Elizabeth and daughter Bell (Barclay) are buried in the unmarked *Old AX9*.



Our clever townsman Mr. M Horner has just completed a beautiful series of photographs of that famous "husus nature" Gerdale—and we are sure that we are not exaggerating when we say that three of the stereoscopic views—the 'upper' and 'lower falls,' and 'a peep through the natural arch' will for grandeur of scene and excellence of reproduction bear favourable comparison with the Alpine and Swiss views of similar scenes which have hitherto been supposed to reign without rivals. The new series consists of eight views which can be had either as cartes or stereoscopic slides. The list will be found in our advertizing columns.

PHOTOGRAPHY.
M. HORNER, JUN.,
Desires to announce that he has commenced the above business at his father's address, Market Place, Settle.
Cartes de Visite, Portraits on Glass or Paper.
Pictures &c., copied.
M. H. having spent four months in one of the leading Photographic Studios in Manchester, confidently hopes to give satisfaction to those who may favour him with their patronage.
Carte de Visite Portraits of the Rev. H. Bunn, 1s each or by Post thirteen Stamps



Thomas, the painter and Ann's sons **Michael** and **Anthony** were talented, early adopters of the new photographic technologies, perhaps inspired by family friend **Joseph Jackson**. Michael, 'our clever townsman', 'having spent four months in one of the leading Photographic Studios in Manchester, confidently hopes to give satisfaction to those who may favour him with their patronage.' He worked commercially as a photographer from 1864 [SC, WSA].

However, Michael's confidence transpired to be shortlived. In 1866 Michael married a recently widowed Lincoln girl **Betsy Brown** [ph3]. They had two daughters, one of whom, **Selina**, died an infant. Tragically,

Michael died of tuberculosis three years later on 23 December 1869, aged just 26. Photography in the earliest days involved poisonous chemicals often used within a confined space so it's possible the associated fumes may have exacerbated his condition. James Cowburn was the registrar and brother James Horner was present at the death.



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|----------------------------|----------------|------|----------|---------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Twenty third December 1869 | Michael Horner | male | 26 years | Photographic Artist | Pathetic 2 years certified | James Horner Present at the death | Twenty fourth December 1869 | James Cowburn |
|----------------------------|----------------|------|----------|---------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|



MH died Dec 29 1869 Aged 26 years (a very small stone under the trees), B23

Michael is also commemorated on his wife's gravestone with daughter Selina in *Old grave D15*. Selina was buried in the Ancient graveyard in 1868, just 18 months before Michael's death and they were probably buried together.

In Memoriam Michael Horner died December 23rd 1869 aged 26 years. Selina daughter of the above died April 24th 1868 aged 6 months Betsy Mary, wife of the above Born Feby 23rd 1846 Died Jany 17th 1900. Old D15



Michael and Betsy's other daughter, **Mabel**, [ph6] was born just four months before Michael died. Mabel married **Edward Charles Thompson** [ph6] who had come to Settle from Bedfordshire to work as a gardener for **Miss Ellen Tristram** at Undercliffe on Duke Street. Edward also happened to be an excellent violinist. They were good friends with **Charles Green**, a gardener and his wife **Kate Cheetham**, whose brother **Arthur** was another excellent violinist. In his scrapbook Charles described that Edward 'my musical idol' 'was to me the best violinist I had ever heard, perhaps. His playing, to me, was thrilling, his piano accompanist was Miss Mabel Horner who he later married. The two of them used to give some very fine music.' Edward taught Charles Green, and several others, to play the violin. Unfortunately music never brought in enough money to live on. Mabel played the American organ at the Adult Sabbath classes and worked as a music teacher in Settle. After Miss Tristram died in 1905 they moved to York and then London where Mabel worked as a journalist. Their son, **Edward Roffe Thompson**, known as Roffe, was a psychologist, author and journalist and has his own Wikipedia page. Whilst at Manchester University Roffe met and then married **Catherine Alice Lejeune**, thought to be the first British female newspaper film critic who also has her own Wikipedia page.



Michael's brothers **James**, aged 20 and **Anthony**, aged 16, quickly learnt the ropes to continue the photography business along with Michael's widow, Betsy. James soon moved away when he married Betsy's sister, **Emma Selina Brown**. James and Emma Selina's son **Robert Gunby Horner** became a professional pianist.



Anthony is the most famous of the Horner photographers and other sources detail his numerous achievements. He married **Elizabeth Ann Holmes** who was a Quaker and so Anthony converted to become a Quaker too. He would have worked alongside fellow Quaker photographer and painter **John Bordley**. Anthony opened a photography studio in New Street (Station Road) in 1898 [LSA] (now a hairdresser) and ran another one in Bentham. Anthony and his five sons are credited with some of the best quality early photos of Settle and the Craven area and their two daughters also assisted in the business. James Riley remembers, 'Mr Horner was the Peter Pan of our little world: his youthful face and modest smile, revealing rather prominent front teeth, never changed with the passing years.' [A] Anthony died a very wealthy man in 1923, aged 70 and Elizabeth died in 1948, aged 83. They are buried in the Quaker graveyard.



Thomas, the painter and Ann's son **George** kept a finger in the decorating pie but was also a bookseller (of over 500 surplus novels!) [LSA] based in Church Street for over 33 years with 'an

excellent lending library. He was of a kind and sympathetic nature' and was not one to seek publicity. 'He was always prepared to back up his opinion as ratepayers who have attended Parish Meetings know.' [CH] George was a water rate collector and his salary was quite a bone of contention in 1894 it seems [4]. George regretted *'that his application for an increase of salary was not successful'* and thanked those who supported him. At the same meeting a resolution to look at reducing his salary was defeated by ten votes to four.

SETTLE AND GIGGLESWICK WATER WORKS.—The Clerk read a letter from Mr. George Horner, collector of water rates, regretting that his application for an increase of salary was not successful, and thanking those who supported him.—A resolution that the question of Mr. Horner's salary be again referred to the Water Works Committee with a view to its reduction was defeated by 10 votes to four.

GEORGE HORNER,
Bookseller &
Stationer,

Church Street,
SETTLE. . .

Good Circulating Library.

Over 500 Surplus Novels
ON SALE—CHEAP.

However, *'for many years he pleased the children of the district by announcing on Christmas day he would give each who attended a Christmas Card and present and it was a pleasure to see the look of delight on each child's face as an orange or penny was handed it'*[ph5]. The children queued from his shop in Church Street down to the church.



George married **Ann Whewell** from Southport who had come to Langcliffe for work in the mills. After having three children, George and Ann lived apart. There were not many options for unhappily married couples in the north as divorce, only available in a London court, was extremely expensive. It may also have been against their religious principles. However, George and Ann are buried together in the unmarked grave *Old HX15*. George died after a sudden painful seizure, aged 66.

Thomas, the painter and Ann had a second son called **William** born in 1861 after the first William died, aged 17 in 1858. This William followed his father to work as a painter and decorator. He lived with his wife **Sarah Ann Milner** and five children in Church Street but later took over the shop in the Market Place. William and Sarah Ann are buried in *Old C12* with their daughter **Lillie** who died in 1893 aged four, and unmarried son **Arthur William**, who carried on the Market Place business and died in 1957, aged 57. William and Sarah Ann's son **James** stayed in Settle and worked as an engineer. He lived in High Street with wife **Edna May Huddleston**. They are buried in *grave New H52*.

William Horner 1860 - 1916. Sarah Ann Horner 1867 - 1943. Arthur William Horner 1899 - 1957. Lillie Horner 1889 - 1893.

In loving memory of Edna May Horner died 9th September 1981 aged 68 years. James Horner, husband of the above died 29th May 1990, aged 83 years.



Going back a couple of generations, William and Jane Leech's daughters **Mary** and **Jane** married labouring brothers **Stephen** and **John Robinson** respectively. Both couples lived in Upper Settle and neither had children, although Mary already had a daughter **Elizabeth Johnson Horner** before they married. John and Jane are buried in Giggleswick graveyard. Mary and Stephen are buried in the unmarked grave *Old AX7* with two unrelated men: **Christopher Brown**, aged 70, who died in 1919 and **Anthony Staveley**, aged 68, who died in 1920. Anthony was an innkeeper's son from Hawes who came to live in Chapel Street in 1917. Presumably, as Stephen and Mary

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didn't have children of their own, the church decided to use the space for other burials. If they knew where she was, they may have checked with Mary's daughter Elizabeth, a nurse – she lived in Berkshire with her husband, **Philip Acland**, a gardener.

The distribution of the Horner graves deserves a mention – eight of them are close together in a prime position, just inside the church gate. Siblings Mary (Horner) Robinson, Thomas and Elizabeth (Horner) Watkinson/Carr are buried almost next to each other and just behind their brother Michael (tinner). Christopher Stephenson Watkinson is buried right behind his mum, Elizabeth (Horner) Watkinson/Carr and next to his wife's nephew Ernest Chapman.

B23 (Ancient) – Michael Horner (photographer), Thomas' son

B27 (Ancient) – Michael Horner (tinner)

AX9 (Old) – Thomas Horner

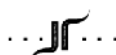
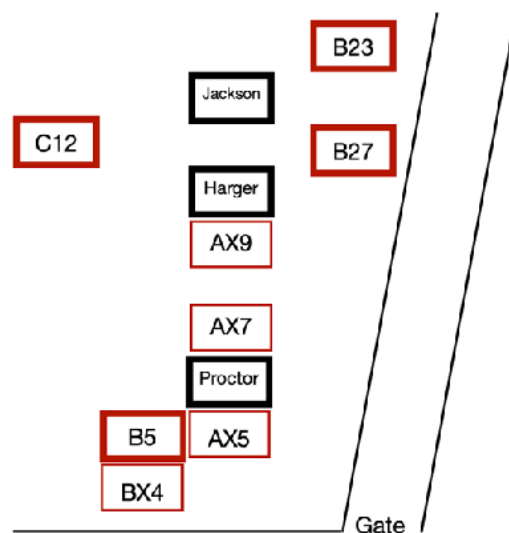
AX7 – Mary (Horner) Robinson

AX5 – Elizabeth (Horner) Watkinson/Carr

B5 – Christopher Watkinson, Elizabeth's son

BX4 – Ernest Chapman

C12 – William Horner, Thomas' son



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'.

Illustrations kindly provided by Teresa Gordon

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CH – with the kind permission of the Craven herald, thanks to Mike Howarth.

A – Listening and Remembering, Memoirs of a Settle Boy by James F Riley

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