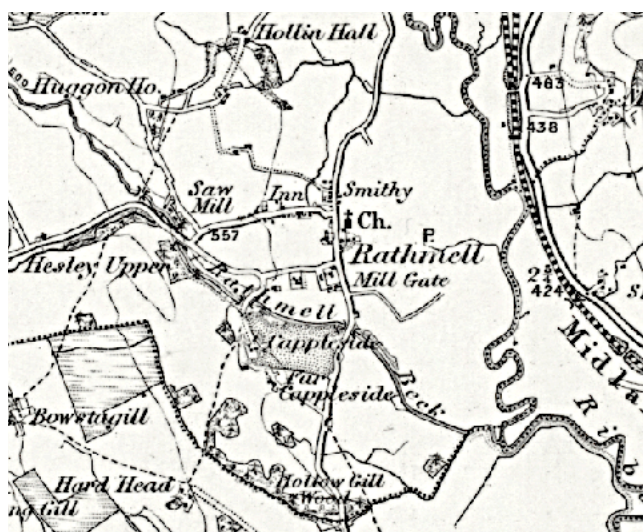


Alice Lawson Thwaite, landlady for 35 years

John Lawson and his wife **Betty Wildman** worked as a farmers at Hardhead south west of Rathmell. They had seven daughters and one son, three of whom had a career in the local inns.

Third daughter **Ann Lawson** married **George Towler** of Rathmell in 1842. George's father, another **George Towler (Snr)** had run Hollin Hall, north of Rathmell since at least 1832. He had married **Agnes Wolfenden** whose parents had run the Cross Keys Inn [ph1] at the same time. Numerous descendants of the family continued to work the Hall and the Inn and George (Jnr) Towler and Ann (Lawson) Towler lived in both.



Census	Hollin Hall	Cross Keys Inn/Farm
1832	George, Joseph Towler	George Wolfenden, Ann
1841	George, Agnes Towler	James Wolfenden
1851	George, Agnes Towler	George (Jnr), Ann Towler
1861	George, Agnes Towler	George (Jnr), Ann Towler
1871	Richard Wolfenden Towler	George (Jnr), Ann Towler
1881	George (Jnr), Ann Towler	John, Ellen Towler
1891	George (Jnr) Towler, widow	John, Ellen Towler



George and Ann were buried in Rathmell graveyard with an impressive stone, the tallest in the graveyard, in a prime location, just behind the altar.

In loving memory of George Towler of Hollin Hall born April 28th 1816, died May 18th 1891. Ann, wife of above, born March 11th 1815, died Aug 11th 1889. George, son of the above born Aug 17th 1849, died April 22 1899. William, born July 7th 1854, died April 3rd 1868. Thy way, O Lord, truly is wonderful.

The licence for the Cross Keys Inn was eventually terminated in 1936 because the police regarded it as, 'structurally unsuitable and redundant'. The owner, a distantly related **Richard Towler**, had no objection, stating 'there is no trade and the takings in the winter would not pay for heating and light' [1]. So that was the end of the inn at Rathmell.



At Settle yesterday the police objected to the renewal of the licence of the **Cross Keys Hotel, Rathmell**, on ground that it was structurally unsuitable and redundant.

No objection was offered by the owner of the premises, for whom it was stated that there was no trade, and the takings, in the Winter, would not pay for heating and light.

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Perhaps inspired by their elder sister, 5th and 6th children **Thomas Wildman Lawson** and **Alice Lawson** took over the running of the Boar's Head Inn at Long Preston [ph2] and it stayed in their capable hands for over 30 years. The Boar's Head had been built in the early 1800s replacing another inn called the King's Head. Thomas and Alice Lawson provided for numerous auctions and society dinners as well as the coroners' inquests. In 1855 they celebrated the anniversary of the battle of Inkerman (Crimean War) with fireworks and canon fire, a balloon ascent, effigies paraded in procession, bands of music and a simulated army battle including the capture of an Russian Army General Gorchakov [2]. A supper for over 100 people was at the Boar's Head Inn and they had 'a very spirited evening'.



LONG PRESTON.

The anniversary of the battle of Inkerman was celebrated with some *clat* at Long Preston, on Monday last. There were fireworks and cannon discharged, flags displayed, a balloon ascent, effigies paraded in procession, bands of music, a mimic army of soldiery, and a battle which ended in the capture of Gortschakoff, who was carried through the town a prisoner! In the evening upwards of 100 persons sat down to a supper, at the Boar's Head Inn, and spent a very spirited evening.

In 1865 the Boar's Head was the venue for the inquest into the death of **Job Cockshott Kayley**, the son of **Farrand Kayley**, the innkeeper of the Black Horse Inn in Hellifield. Job, aged 28, was returning from Settle market with his sisters on his horse and cart. Job turned to speak to them and, 'by some means he lost his equilibrium and

FATAL ACCIDENT.—A most lamentable accident occurred on Tuesday evening last at the village of Long Preston to Mr. Job Kayley, son of Mr. Farrand Kayley, innkeeper, residing at Hellifield. It appears the deceased was returning from Settle market in a cart along with his sisters, and at the time the accident happened was driving and standing upright in the cart, with his head turned towards his sisters, and by some means he lost his equilibrium and fell backwards over the cart, alighting on his head, the wheel passing over his chest. The accident was witnessed by Mr. James

fell backwards over the cart, alighting on his head, the wheel passing over his chest'. Job was taken to the Boar's Head Inn for treatment but died before medical assistance arrived. At the inquest, a verdict of 'Accidentally killed by falling from a cart' was given [3],

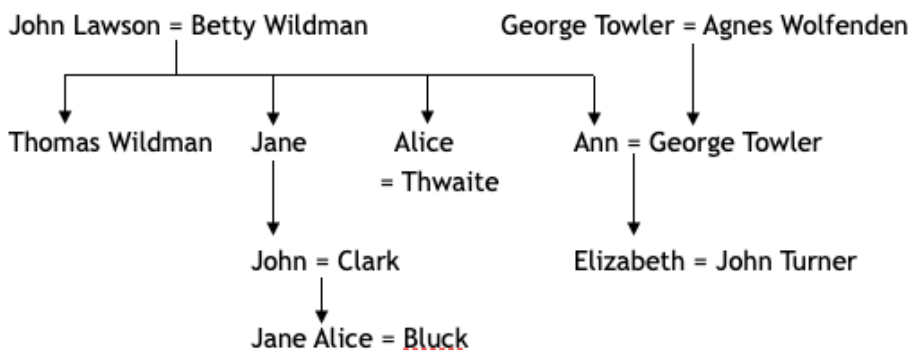
Thomas died in 1875, aged 54 and was buried in Long Preston graveyard with his parents and some siblings. Mum Betty died at the birth of a baby, **Ellen Lawson**, who also died and two sisters, **Mary Lawson** and **Jane Lawson**, died in consecutive months in 1846, probably of a shared disease. For some reason, Mary was buried at Rathmell.



In memory of John Lawson of Long Preston who died 25 October 1854, aged 73 years. Also Betty wife of the above who died 28 January 1833, aged 42 years. Also Ellen their infant daughter who died 2 March 1833. Also Mary their daughter who died 18 January 1846, aged 19 years and was interred at Rathmell. Also Jane their daughter who died 20 February 1846, aged 37 years. Also Isabella their daughter who died 16 July 1857, aged 38 years. Also Thomas Wildman Lawson of Long Preston their son who departed this life 10 May 1876 in the 55th year of his age.

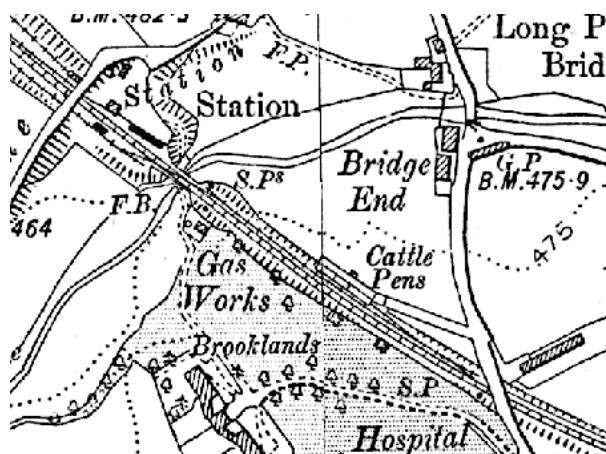
So Alice continued to run the Boar's Head herself. To help her, a knight in shining armour arrived in the form of **William Thwaite**, a farmer's son from Kettlewell. Although William was almost 20 years younger than Alice, they married in 1878 and continued to run the Boar's Head together. At the time of the next census they both lied about

Lawson Towler families



their ages to make the age difference appear to be just ten years! It was rather scandalous to have such an older wife in those days. It was an uneventful tenancy apart from William being fined 13 shillings for having no name on his cart in 1884.

Unfortunately, in October 1880, William had an accident on the railway, knocked down as he was crossing the railway bridge near the cattle docks. William was hit by a Pullman,



SERIOUS ACCIDENT AT LONG PRESTON.— Yesterday afternoon, a dreadful accident happened to a person named Thwaites, proprietor of the Boar's Head Inn, Long Preston. It appears that Thwaites was crossing a railway bridge near the cattle docks at Long Preston, when he was knocked down by the afternoon up Pullman, which is due at Skipton at ten minutes past three o'clock. The poor fellow had one of his legs cut off, and was otherwise very badly injured. He was removed to the Leeds Infirmary.

which was 'due in Skipton at ten minutes past three o'clock. The poor fellow had one of his legs cut off and was otherwise very badly injured. He was removed to Leeds Infirmary'[4]. Amazingly, William survived and was back at the Boar's Head when the next census return was taken. Alice will have continued to run the pub, of course with the help of a couple of servants. William died in 1889, aged 41 and it would not be surprising if the railway accident had contributed to his death. By then Alice was in her 60s and retired from the Boar's Head to live in nearby Greenbank Terrace with her nieces. She had been the landlady for around 35 years! A possible relation of William, James Thwaite, a corn warehouseman lived next door with his family. William and Alice Thwaite are buried in Long Preston graveyard, close to Alice's parents.

In Memory of William Thwaite of Boars Head, Long Preston born 1 April 1848 died 19 Dec 1889. Also Alice wife of the above born 9 Feb 1829 died 14 June 1906.



John and Betty's only son Thomas Wildman Lawson didn't have children but this line of the Lawson name did continue via daughter Jane Lawson who had an

Settle Graveyard Project

illegitimate son **John Lawson**. Jane died in 1846 when John was nine and he was brought up by his grandfather and then with Thomas and Alice at the Boar's Head. Once married to **Mary Clark**, from Hole House farm, they lived next door to the Boar's Head Inn with John working as a joiner and then as a grocer. John and Mary's daughter **Jane Alice Lawson** met railway guard **Henry Bluck** [ph3] when he was posted to Hellifield in 1890. They married in 1899 and were posted to Leeds but Jane Alice died in 1901, perhaps with childbirth issues. Rather strangely, Henry's widowed mother-in-law Mary (Clark) Lawson continued to live with Henry for many years after Jane Alice died. Henry started working for the railway as a porter aged 14 and continued with them for over 50 years!



The Boar's Head was taken over by **John Turner** and his wife **Elizabeth (Towler) Turner**. Elizabeth was the daughter of George and Ann (Lawson) Towler of the Cross Keys Inn in Rathmell. During their tenancy, in 1894, an inquest was held into the death of **Robert Procter**, a solicitor, aged 24 who carelessly left a loaded gun on the table at the Eagle Hotel (the Maypole) after a day's shooting. **William Yates**, a fruit dealer from Barnoldswick, placed a dead (shot) duck on the table and this caused the gun to go off, *'the contents of one barrel lodging in the upper third of the right thigh of Mr Procter, causing a serious wound, from the effects of which he died on Monday afternoon'* [5]. The paper lamented the number of fatalities and accidents caused by fools, jokers and bunglers using guns, especially those leaving guns loaded. Ouch!

FATAL TERMINATION OF A GUN ACCIDENT.—On Friday last, as Mr. Robert Procter was on his way home from shooting in the Ings, having called to shelter from the rain at the Eagle Hotel, and placed his loaded gun upon the table, a man named William Yates picked up a duck, and upon laying it down again upon the table the gun went off, the contents of one barrel lodging in the upper third of the right thigh of Mr. Procter, causing a serious wound, from the effects of which he died on Monday afternoon. An inquest was held at the Boar's Head Inn, before Mr. E. Wood, Deputy-Coroner, on

Unfortunately, John Turner was declared bankrupt in 1903 due to *'death of stock and lack of capital'*[6]. Settle's **Charles Henry Best** was appointed Trustee John and Elizabeth separated and Jane retired to Knaresborough with some of their seven daughters. Oh dear. **Mr T Howson** took over the tenancy but widow **Eli Brook** was at the Boar's Head Inn at the time of the 1911 census.

LONG PRESTON FARMER'S FAILURE.

A meeting of the creditors of John Turner, **Boar's Head Hotel**, **Long Preston** licensed victualler and farmer, was held yesterday at the offices of the Bradford Official Receiver. The liabilities were stated to be £1,544 15s., and assets £609 10s., or a deficiency of £935 5s. The debtor attributed his position to loss by death of stock and to want of capital.

Mr. C. H. Best, of Skipton, was appointed trustee, with a committee of inspection.



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. 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 settlresearch@gmail.com. Latest news and events are on the Facebook page 'Settle Graveyard Project'.

Settle Graveyard Project

Thanks to Teresa Gordon for the sketches

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Yorkshire Post, 2 – Craven Herald & Wensleydale Standard (via Long Preston Heritage Group), 3 – Lancaster Gazette, 4 – York Herald, 5 – Lancaster Guardian, 6 – Leeds Mercury

ph1 – photo with the kind permission of Rathmellvillage.org.uk, ph2 – with the kind permission of the Long Preston Heritage Group, ph3 – credited to family relations via Ancestry.co.uk, username Heather Ray

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The material in this account has been published by YDMT in the book ‘Meandering down the Ribble, Born and Bred in the Long Preston Floodplain’ who have given permission for it to be included in this account