

John Pickard Robinson, aerated water manufacturer

John Pickard Robinson, born in 1829 came to Settle from Calverley, between Leeds and Bradford, to try his hand as a shoemaker. In 1853, aged 24 he married **Elizabeth Waddington**, a daughter of **Edward Waddington**, a fishmonger and they had two daughters, **Sarah Jane** and **Mary Jane Robinson**. In the 1840s Edward probably sold salted, smoked and dried fish as, before railways, there was no way to keep fish fresh on the long journey from the coast. John and Elizabeth spent most of their lives in Victoria Street living at the tiny Junction Cottage [ph5].

In 1872 Elizabeth and daughter Sarah Jane were taken to court by neighbour **Ellen McCann** for assault. Ellen's Irish husband, **Thomas McCann**, was also a shoemaker so perhaps there was some unhealthy competition going on? Elizabeth was fined a total of 16 shillings and Sarah Jane 11 shillings [1]. Thomas and Ellen had moved away from Settle by the time of the next census return. Thomas' father **James McCann** was



ASSAULT.—At the Petty Sessions, on Tuesday last, before the Rev. H. J. Swale and C. Jogleby, Esq., Ellen McCann, a married woman, residing at Settle, charged Elizabeth Robinson, the wife of J. P. Robinson, shoemaker, also living in Settle, with having assaulted her on the 15th inst. A charge of assault was also brought by the same complainant against Sarah Jane, the daughter of the above named defendant. After hearing the evidence of the parties, who are neighbours, the Bench fined the first-named defendant 2s. 6d. and costs 13s. 6d., and the latter 2s. 6d. and 8s. 6d. costs. Mr. H. D. Robinson appeared for both defendants.

living in the Folly in Settle at the time of the 1841 census, aged 75 working as a 'chair bottomer'. James died a year later and was buried in the unmarked *Anc EX7*.

During the 1880s John turned his hand to selling fizzy drinks as part of Craven Aerated Water Works [LSA]. He sold fruit cordials including lime, peppermint, raspberry and 'winterine' which could have been wintergreen, the mint flavour used in toothpaste and chewing gum. Incredibly carbonated drinks had been available since the late 18th century in cities although will have taken longer to reach places like Settle. Scientist **Joseph Priestley** (best known for discovering oxygen) accidentally invented carbonated water in 1767 and was quoted as describing the 'peculiar sensation' of drinking it. In 1783 German **Johan Jacob Schwepes** was the first to mass produce carbonated drinks. John Pickard Robinson's equipment would have been simple — he would probably have used a 'gasogene' [ph6]. The top bulb contained chemicals to make carbon dioxide and the lower bulb contained the liquid. Freshly carbonated drinks came out of the spout. The bulbs were surrounded by a wire mesh as they had a tendency to explode!

The business was transferred to **Robert** and **Louisa Chapman** during the 1890s [LSA] and John, in his 60s, returned to shoemaking. Louisa sold oat cakes, muffins and crumpets too! When Louisa

Craven Aerated Water Works,
+ VICTORIA STREET, SETTLE. +

A. J. + P. + ROBINSON

Begs to thank his customers for their liberal support during the last twelve months, and hopes, by prompt and careful attention to all orders entrusted to him, to still merit a continuance of their favours.

J. P. R. is now manufacturing all kinds of

FRUIT + CORDIALS,

INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING—

Lime Juice, Peppermint, Winterene, Raspberry, &c.

ALL WATER FILTERED.

Sold (Wholesale) in gallon and half-gallon bottles; also, in small bottles for Pic-nic and other parties.

← PRICES ON APPLICATION. →



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Craven Aerated Water Works,
 * THE GREEN, SETTLE. *

MRS. CHAPMAN
 REQUESTS to return sincere thanks to the inhabitants of Settle and the surrounding neighbourhood for their kind support to her late husband (ROBERT CHAPMAN), and also wishes to inform them that she intends carrying on the above business in all its various branches, for which she solicits a share of the public patronage.

.....
All kinds of Aerated Water
 Made to order on the shortest notice.

ALL WATER FILTERED.

.....
Oat-cake, Muffins, and Crumpets
 FRESH TWICE A WEEK.

All orders entrusted to her will have prompt attention.

.....
 * MRS. CHAPMAN, *
 Aerated Water Manufacturer,
 THE GREEN, SETTLE.

GRAVEN MINERAL WATER FACTORY,
 GIGGLESWICK,
 SETTLE, June 21 1900
 M/20 Coates, Toward

Delivered by T. DAWSON,
 Mineral Water Manufacturer.

Doc.	SODA WATER	3
4	LEMONADE	
	GINGER	
	GINGER ALE	
	GINGER BEER	
	RASPBERRY	
	LIME JUICE AND SODA	
	BURDOCK & DANDELION	
	STOUT	
2	KOP ALE	3
2	KOP BITTERS	4
	STONE GINGER BEER	
	ALE	
	STOUT	
	SYPHONS	

Paid 9/11/01
Thompson 6/4

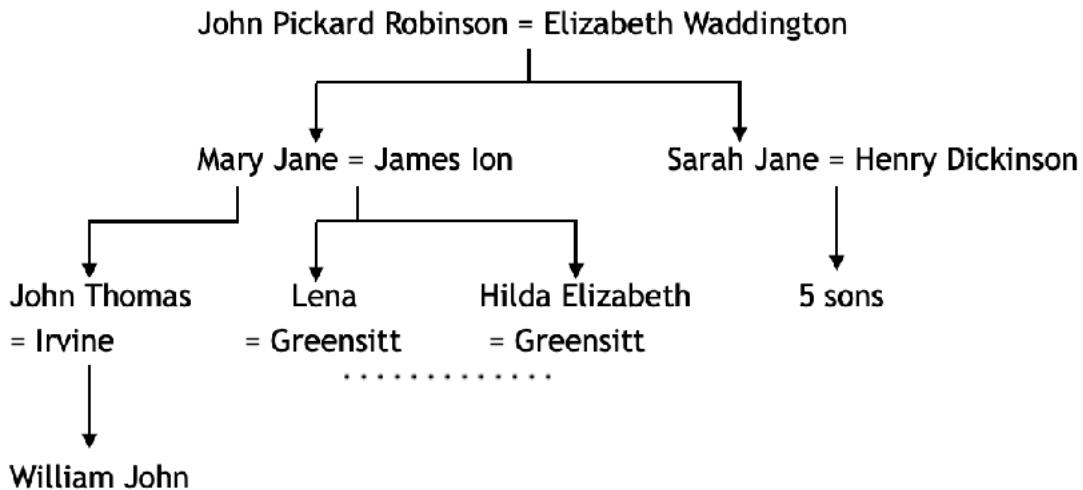
Bottles and Boxes not returned will be charged for.



died in 1898 **Thomas Dawson** appeared to take over the business, offering a full range of fizzy drinks and ales [ph3]. By the time Thomas Dawson ran his business he had found a supply of strengthened bottles [ph4].

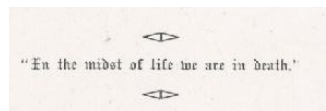
Elizabeth died in 1898, aged 69. John lived with daughter Mary Jane and survived to the very great age of 90, dying in 1919. John and Elizabeth are buried together in the unmarked *Old EX23*.

John Pickard Robinson's family



When she was 24 daughter Mary Jane birth to a son, **John Thomas Robinson**, in Leyburn. Perhaps she had been working in domestic service there? This didn't put off **James Ion**, the son of a tailor from Horton-in-Ribblesdale who she married three years later in 1884. For some reason they married in Embleton in Northumberland. James worked as a railway platelayer and lived in small houses on Castle Hill and Howson's Yard. They had two daughters. Tragically James was killed on Sunday 28 June 1908, aged 52 when he was accidentally killed by the Heysham passenger train on the railway near Long Preston. The coroner's jury thought he didn't hear the train coming [2]. His funeral card included '*In the midst of life we are in death*', appropriately [ph2].

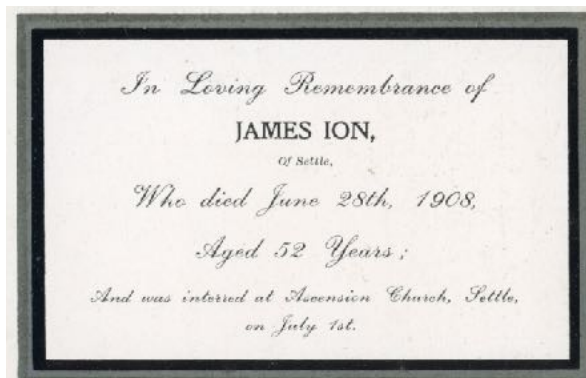
After James died Mary Jane brought up the children with the help of her father, living in Howson's Yard behind the Market Place. In 1918



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James Ion, of Settle, aged 52 years, foreman platelayer on the Midland Railway, who was accidentally killed on the line near Long Preston

A coroner's jury at Long Preston on Monday returned a verdict of "Death from misadventure" in the case of James Ion, 52, foreman platelayer, who was knocked down by the Heysham passenger train on Sunday morning. He was walking along the line towards Long Preston and does not appear to have heard the approaching train.



daughter Lena Ion married John Spenceley Greensitt, the son of William Greensitt and Ann Spenceley who were the innkeepers of the Malt Shovel in Brearton, north of Knaresborough. The Malt Shovel still operates to this day and has allegedly served 'the best Sunday lunches in Yorkshire' [ph8]. John Spenceley Greensitt worked as a domestic chauffeur in Knaresborough. They retired to live near Middlesborough.



Meanwhile in 1920 James and Mary Jane's daughter Hilda Elizabeth Ion married Allan Greensitt, John Spenceley Greensitt's brother and they also lived in Middlesborough. Somewhere along the line Mary Jane joined her daughters in Middlesborough where she lived to the ripe old age of 96!

Mary's son John Thomas Robinson, who changed his name to John Thomas Ion, became an upholsterer. He lived in Goldielands and may have worked with/for the Harger family. In 1904 he married Mary Irvine from Scotland who helped in the business. John Thomas died in 1938 aged 57 and Mary went to live near their only child, William John Ion.



Goldielands, SETTLE, *July 24 1914*

Mr John Irvine

DR. TO J. T. ION, UPHOLSTERER.

Furniture re-upholstered, Mattresses made and re-made, Blinds measured for and Rollers fitted. Parties own Linen. Billed. Loose Covers cut and made, Carpets allowed and repaired.

18 yds Bealting @ 2 per yd.	3.0
15 yds Spring Canvas 1/2	1.7
15 yds Spring Canvas @ 10 per yd	15.2
2 1/2 yds Spring @ 2 each	3.6
1/2 Canvas @ 15	7.2
2 lb wool @ 3	6
padding	.6
2 1/2 Bush Green Retain @ 4/11	19 0 2
10 yds Retain Quips @ 1	10
1/2 doz Retain Straps 1/3 doz	2 0
1 doz Lamin & Bolts	6
Labour 4 Chairs @ 2/- each	1.0 0
1 Chair @ 6/8	6 8
<i>Recd</i>	
<i>In Total</i>	<i>£ 3.0 2 2</i>

In Total April 24/14

William John Ion, born in 1905, worked at Giggleswick workhouse during the early 1930s. By the time of the 1939 pre-war register William and his wife Olive Birtle were 'Institution Master and Matron' of Eden House Public Assistance Institution in Kirkby Stephen with around 80 'inmates'. This typically foreboding building was originally set up in 1836 as a workhouse to provide for the poor of the county of Westmorland [ph7]. In 1930 the workhouse evolved into the Eden House Public Assistance Institution providing for sick men and women as well as pregnant women and the destitute. The inmates did all the work to run the institution – cleaning rooms, washing up, preparing vegetables, gardening, shovelling coal and chopping sticks which were sold to the community to raise funds. William lived to the age of 86 and his wife to the age of 88. Mum Mary died in 1955, aged 83 and was brought back to Settle for burial with John Thomas in the unmarked Old GX23, together with John Thomas' stepfather James Ion. This



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grave is two rows directly behind that of John Pickard Robinson and his wife Elizabeth, in Old EX23.

Talking of which John Pickard Robinson and wife Elizabeth's other daughter, **Sarah Jane Robinson** married **Henry Dickinson**, a distant relation of other Dickinsons in our graveyard. Henry was from Wigglesworth and came to Settle to work as a grocer in High Street, next to the Talbot. Later he worked as a railway platelayer and they lived in Victoria Street while Sarah Jane brought up five sons. Son **Ernest Dickinson** worked as a gardener at Anley Hall, owned by the Birkbeck family. When the war was looming he would have been encouraged by the Birkbecks to do his duty. Private Ernest Dickinson of the Duke of Wellington's West Riding Regiment went missing, presumed killed on the Western Front on 29 April 1918, aged 25 [ph9]. Henry and Sarah Jane's son **John Robinson Dickinson** began his working life as a footman to **Walter Morrison** up at Malham Tarn Hall before marrying **Martha Poole**. They moved to Wiltshire. Henry, aged 55, Sarah Jane aged 75 and eldest son **William Dickinson**, aged 48 are buried together in the unmarked *Old GX21*, just a couple of plots away from Sarah Jane's brother-in-law James Ion and her nephew John Thomas Robinson Ion.



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 cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Lancaster Gazette, 2 – Yorkshire Post

ph1 – photo with the kind permission of John Reid, ph2 – photo with the kind permission of Roger Taylor, ph3 – credited to the Back in Settle Facebook site, submitted by Helen Atkinson, ph4 – credited to the Back in Settle Facebook site, submitted by Don Armstrong, ph5 – with the kind permission of the Ben Mackenzie Collection, ph6 – credited to Wikipedia, sodebunny, ph7 – credited to the excellent workhouses.org.uk, ph8 – credited to The Malt Shovel facebook page, ph9 – credited to Cravens Part in the Great War

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