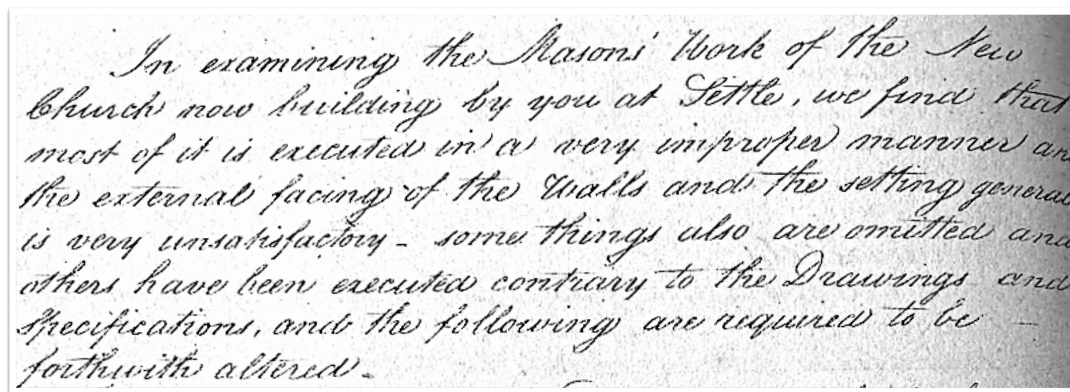


## Thomas Bateson, builder

In 1823 at Giggleswick Church, **Thomas Bateson**, a farmer's son from Thornton-in-Lonsdale, married **Nancy Harger**, the eldest of ten children of **Robert Harger** and **Agnes Hallpike** who ran the immensely successful Settle carpentry and furnishing business. Thomas worked as a stonemason to provide for Nancy and the growing family of ten children and they all lived in the Castle Hill area of Settle, next door to Nancy's sister and brother-in-law, **Maria (Harger)** and **Joseph Jackson**, plumber and cave explorer.

In March 1836 Thomas Bateson and his father-in-law were awarded the contracts for building the new church in Settle, Holy Ascension Church. Thomas was appointed to source the stone and build the church, for £1045, giving sureties from Nancy's uncles **Eli Harger** (who ran the Naked Man Inn) and **Joseph Harger** (who ran the Royal Oak). Thomas must have built other buildings in the area to be sufficiently well regarded to land this contract — we can only wonder which ones! Nancy's father, **Robert Harger** was appointed to obtain timber and do the carpentry with sureties from his brother **William Harger**, a farmer. Unfortunately, in June 1837, a letter was written to Thomas Bateson, the mason [ph1]:



*In examining the Masons' work of the New Church now building by you at Settle, we find that most of it is executed in a very improper manner and the external facing of the Walls and the setting generally is very unsatisfactory - some things also are omitted and others have been executed contrary to the Drawings and Specifications, and the following are required to be forthwith altered.*

'In examining the mason's work of the new church now building by you at Settle, we find that most of it is executed in a very improper manner and the external facing of the walls and the setting generally is very unsatisfactory. Some things are omitted and others have been executed contrary to the plans.' A list of at least ten significant repairs followed including a complete rebuild and grouting of the slopes of the tower turret and the tower walls. Oh dear. Presumably the alterations were made, with or without financial support from the Hargers, and the church was consecrated on 26 October 1838. It is still standing today, despite Thomas's unsatisfactory methods!

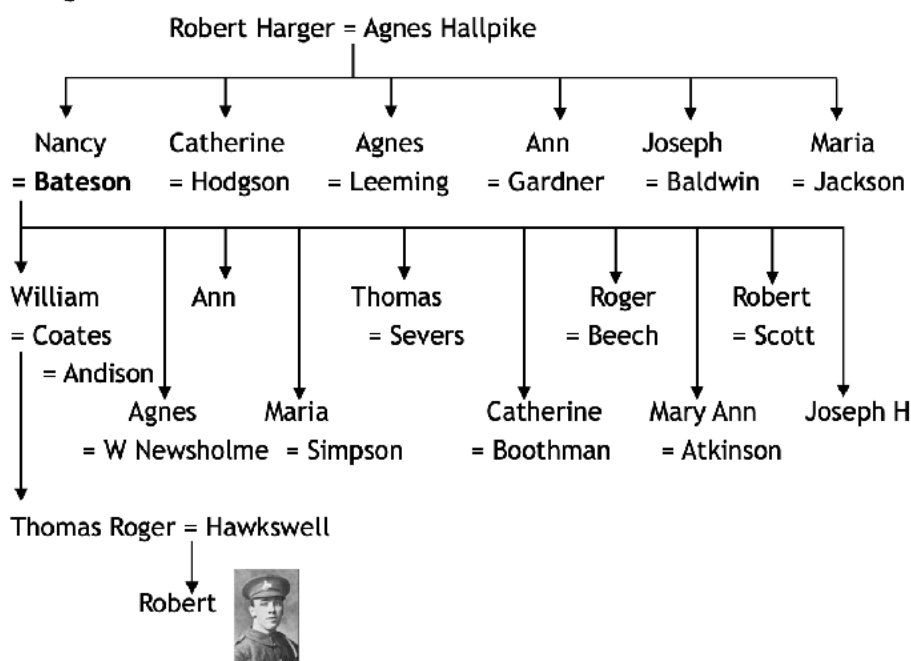
Tragically, Thomas and his wife Nancy died of typhoid within three weeks of each other in September 1849. Thomas died first, aged 51, on 9 September and his exact cause of death was synchoid fever, pneumonia and typhoid from which he had been suffering for four days [ph3]. Fellow stonemason and Nancy's brother-in-law **Lawrence Hodgson** was present at his death. Lawrence later built the savings bank at the foot of Castle Hill, opposite the end of Cheapside. The

496	Month 9 Ninth September 1849 Settle	Thomas Bateson	Male	51 Years	Stone mason	Synchoid fever Pneumonia Typhoid 4 days Unkilled	Lawrence Hodgson Present at the Death Settle	Eleventh September 1849	Thomas Robinson Registrar
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registrar was surgeon **Thomas Robinson** who died a couple of years later. Nancy died on 24 September, aged 47. Their youngest son, **Joseph Harger Bateson**, had just turned four when they died but he also passed away, a week later, on 2 October, presumably also infected with typhoid. Despite Thomas' standing in the town, Thomas, Nancy and little Joseph were buried in an unmarked grave Ancient CX3, however Nancy was also remembered on her parents' stone in Giggleswick graveyard. During the 1850s, in Settle graveyard the **Robinson family** were buried next to the Batesons with an enormous family tomb.

Thomas and Nancy left eight orphaned children with the eldest, **William Bateson**, being 23 and the youngest, **Robert Harger**, aged eight. For those keeping count, daughter **Ann Bateson** had died in infancy and was buried in Giggleswick graveyard. What happened to them all? It was amazingly good news, thanks to various members of the Harger family, although several died at what we would consider a young age. Ironically, none were buried in the graveyard alongside the church that Thomas built!

### Harger and Bateson families



On 24 May 1849, shortly before her parents' death, eldest daughter, **Agnes Bateson** [ph2] landed on her feet by marrying cabinet maker **John Wilkinson Newsholme**. John inherited an enormous estate attached to Hellifield Green and the Dale Head Valley from his second cousin and so they and their family had a privileged existence. Agnes died, aged 45, probably worn out after giving birth to ten children including a pair of twins. Their amazing account is provided separately. As well as bringing up their own children, John and Agnes also brought up Agnes' youngest brother, **Robert Harger**.

Robert had a career as a commercial traveller for a drapery business, being found in census returns in St Bees, Cumbria, Leicestershire and London. Whilst in Leicestershire Robert met and married **Clara Annie Scott** who became the mother of four children, two of whom had middle names of Harger and Bateson. Robert was 48 when he died in London.

Second surviving daughter **Maria Bateson** was 17 when her parents died and went into domestic service, working for **John Johnson Hartley**, an ironmonger, at the time of the next census. John

## Settle Graveyard Project

Johnson Hartley's wife was **Mary Harger**, Nancy's cousin. When she was 28, in 1860, Maria married **William Henry Simpson**, a plumber from Leeds. William Henry had come to Settle for an apprenticeship in plumbing with Nancy's brother-in-law, **Joseph Jackson**, husband of **Maria Harger** so could have been a next door neighbour to the Batesons before Thomas and Nancy died. Living in Leeds the Simpsons had just two children, with middle names of Harger and Bateson and had enough left over to employ a servant. Maria was 49 when she died.

After her parents died third daughter **Catherine Bateson** grew up with her aunt **Agnes (Harger) Leeming** and her husband **Robert Leeming** [ph3], a shoemaker in Leeds. She married **Henry Boothman**, a joiner and cabinet maker from the Forest of Bowland and they settled in Leeds as well [ph3]. They had eight children, including a son called **Harger Boothman** and a pair of non-identical twins (who both survived). Harger Boothman became a draper in Leeds and had a large family. Catherine survived to the age of 70.



Youngest daughter **Mary Ann Bateson** was only ten when her parents died. Two years later she was found working in service for **Susannah Constantine Robinson**, a very wealthy spinster who lived on Constitution Hill. In 1860, aged 21, Mary Ann married **William Atkinson**, a leather merchant from Kendal. They had three children before Mary Ann died, aged just 33. William married again and had many more children. In 1878 he moved his premises from the impressive sounding Tower Buildings at Stramongate, by the river in Kendal to 78 Stricklandgate, right in the centre of the town[1].

**MR. WILLIAM ATKINSON,**  
SHOE FACTOR.  
TOWER BUILDINGS, STRAMONGATE, KENDAL.

BEFORE the WHOLESALE WAREHOUSE is REMOVED to 75, STRICKLANDGATE, Mr. ATKINSON has decided to CLEAR his STOCK at a CONSIDERABLE REDUCTION of Price. The Prices at the WHOLESALE WAREHOUSE have always been MOST REASONABLE, and VERY RICH UNDER the usual figures, as MANY THOUSANDS of sensible BOOT BUYERS know. NOW, in order to EFFECT A LARGE and IMMEDIATE SALE, a SUBSTANTIAL ADVANTAGE in Value will be offered to every customer. BOOTS for MEN, WOMEN, and CHILDREN may thus be had at the WHOLESALE WAREHOUSE of EXCELLENT QUALITY for a SMALL SUM OF MONEY. Men's Boots 6s, 7s, 8s, 9s, and 10s. Men's Boots, sewn, usually sold at 12s, may be bought for 11s 6d!

A SPECIAL LOT OF MEN'S BOOTS, STRONG, AT LOW PRICES!

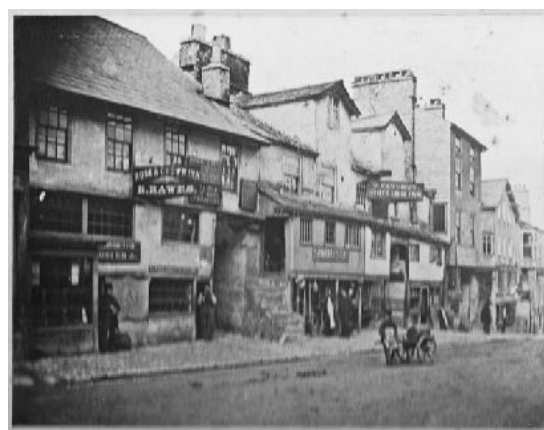
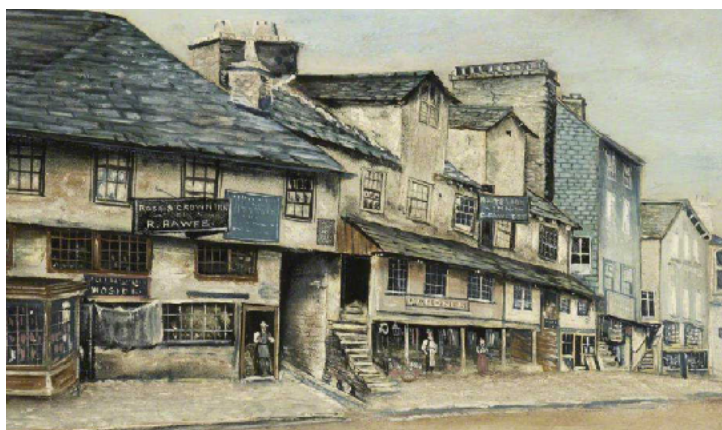
MR. ATKINSON has just had consigned to him a large selection of Women's Sewn Shoes to button and lace, in all sizes will offer at 7s 6d; and a CHOICE ASSORTMENT of HIGH LEGGED BUTTON and LACE BOOTS at 10s and 12s 6d. Nothing of the kind can be purchased anywhere but at the WHOLESALE WAREHOUSE under 12s or 14s. BOYS' and GIRLS' BOOTS, cheap! SLIPPERS in LEATHER and FRUIT, GOOD and LOW in PRICE.

See the Goods at the WHOLESALE WAREHOUSE in STRICKLANDGATE on Saturday! Kitchen Drawers, 3s; Bread Table, 5s 6d; capital Chest of Drawers, 3s. Balustrade very cheap! Pots of every description, &c., &c.

Repairs! Repairs!! Repairs!!!

**THE WHOLESALE WAREHOUSE,**  
TOWER BUILDINGS, STRAMONGATE, KENDAL

Going back to the sons, Thomas and Nancy's son **Thomas Bateson** did extraordinarily well. Thomas was 16 when his parents died but had already started his own career. He had attended Giggleswick school and left at the age of 14 to begin an apprenticeship with chemist **Joseph Severs**, who was also based in Stricklandgate, Kendal [ph4, ph5].



## Settle Graveyard Project

Joseph Severs had been elected to the Pharmaceutical Society in 1843. He had six children with his wife **Agnes Gardner**. Joseph became ill and died, aged 50, 'in the prime of his life'<sup>[2,3]</sup>. Joseph had visited Settle to convalesce, residing with **Thomas Hardacre**, a draper, described as a 'private asylum'. Joseph was buried in Settle's Zion Chapel graveyard.

Settle.—On Tuesday, the 10th instant, at the house of Mr Hardacre, Settle, Yorkshire, where he was residing for the benefit of his health, Mr Joseph Severs, chemist, &c., of Kendal, aged 50 years.

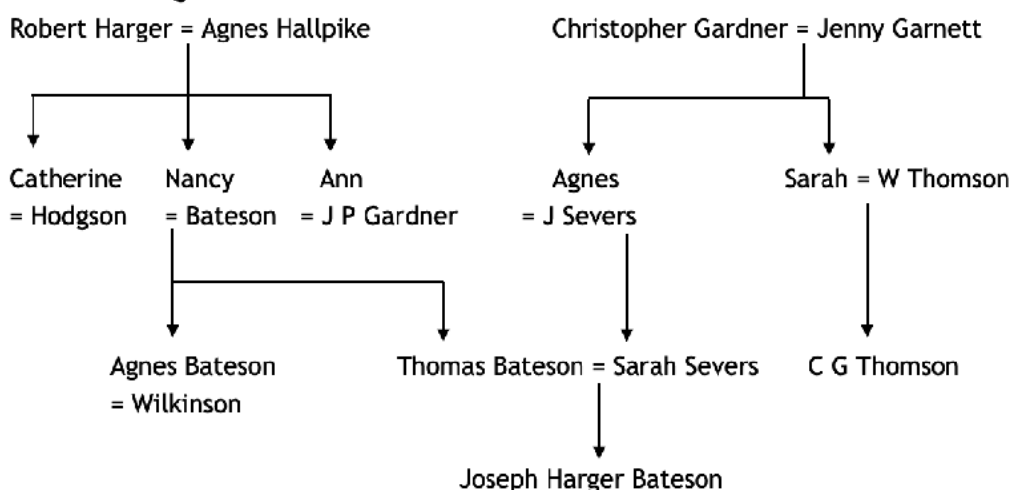
At a private asylum, Mr. Joseph Severs, druggist, of Kendal, in the prime of life.



*In memory of Joseph Severs of Kendal who died at Settle November 10th 1857 in the fiftieth year of his age. But our God is in the heavens. He hath done what so ever He hath pleased. 115th psalm 3rd verse*

Why was Joseph in Settle? It's likely he was visiting relations. His wife, Agnes' sister **Sarah Gardner** had married **William Thomson**, the son of **James Thomson** who lived in Settle and was a prominent figure at the Zion Chapel. Agnes and Sarah Gardner were the daughters of **Christopher Gardner** who was a tinner and brazier, also on Stricklandgate in Kendal. Their son **John Postlethwaite Gardner**, another tinner and brazier took over the family business and ran it with Settle's **Ann Harger**, Nancy (Harger) Bateson's sister. There are plenty of links between these families!

### Bateson Harger Gardner and Severs links



After Joseph Sever's death, Thomas Bateson was ideally placed to take over the business with Joseph's son, **Joseph Severs (Jnr)** [1]. Thomas was also ideally placed to marry Joseph's daughter, **Sarah Severs**, in 1864 and they had three sons and a daughter (who died, aged five). They lived in very desirable houses at Cliff Terrace and Beast Banks to the south west of Kendal. Doesn't Kendal have fabulous street names?! In 1869 their house was put up for sale [1] and the solicitor overseeing the sale was **Christopher Gardner Thomson**, the son of William and Sarah (Gardner) Thomson, of course!

**THOMAS BATESON**  
 Has had the actual management of the business since the death of the late Mr. Severs, and is on that account well-known to most of the persons frequenting the Shop. They have both passed the examinations of the Pharmaceutical Society.  
 Besides offering this guarantee, they hope by their conduct and management, to give practical proof of their business abilities.  
 The business will in future be carried on under the style of  
**SEVERS & BATESON,**  
 PHARMACEUTICAL CHEMISTS,  
 KENDAL.

Keeping things within this family, as a chemist Thomas Bateson was known to have been the inspiration for his cousin **George Thomas (Tom) Wilkinson Newsholme**, son of Agnes (Bateson)

## Settle Graveyard Project

Wilkinson, to take up pharmacy as a profession rather than medicine. Tom became an incredibly successful pharmacist in Sheffield, President of the Pharmaceutical Society and Justice of the Peace for the City of Sheffield.

When Thomas died in 1909 his obituary explained he had worked at Severs and Bateson for nearly half a century. He was a member of the Town Council for ten years, a JP and a Freemason [4]. He was buried with two children and widow Sarah in Kendal's Castle Street Cemetery.

**DEATH OF MR. THOMAS BATESON, OF KENDAL.**—The death occurred on Saturday, at Kendal, at the age of 75, of Mr Thomas Bateson, who was a member of the firm of Severs and Bateson, chemists, for nearly half a century. He was a member of the Town Council for ten years, a justice of the peace, and a Freemason.

*In memory of Thomas Bateson who died June 12 1909, aged 76 years. Also of his children Florence Mary who died October 26, 1880 aged 5½ years. John Severs (Bateson) who died December 17, 1889 aged 21 years. Sarah, widow of the above Thomas Bateson, died Oct 5, 1913, aged 70,*



Thomas and Sarah's son **Alfred Bateson** also became a chemist and son **Joseph Harger Bateson** (named after his deceased uncle) was a 'Wesleyan Chaplain and Explorer' spending much of his life in India. When he died, aged 70 Joseph's obituary explained his extraordinary life. He was the secretary of the Royal Navy, Army and Air Force Boards of the Methodist Church as so was responsible for the appointment of Methodist chaplains to the services. During the war he held the rank of Brigadier General and had several mentions in dispatches, much amongst the troops in India where he led 'temperance and social purity campaigns' [5]. As an explorer he was a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society and once spent three months in unknown territory at the foot of Mount Everest. He entered the forbidden territory of Western Tibet but lost his kit and passport in an avalanche. In the guise of a Hindu, he journeyed to the source of the Ganges where no Englishman had previously been. Impressive! He retired to Upper Tooting Methodist Church with his wife, **Rose Edmeands**.

**REV. J. H. BATESON**  
—  
**Methodist Chaplain  
and Explorer**

Going back to Thomas and Nancy's children, son **Roger Bateson** was 12 when his parents died and was brought up by his aunt and uncle **Joseph and Margaret (Baldwin) Harger**, who were running the joinery/cabinet making business on Chapel Street. Unsurprisingly, Roger also became a joiner, most likely following an apprenticeship with Uncle Joseph. He made his name in quite a different way. Roger found his way to Birmingham and married **Emma Beech**, a farmer's daughter from Edgbaston who went onto have seven children, including a pair of twins and a son called **Roger Harger Bateson**, known as Harger Bateson, who became a hardware shopkeeper.

Whilst continuing to work as a joiner Roger became involved with the Reform League which had been established in 1865 as a nationwide movement to campaign for male suffrage and the legal establishment of trade unions. In 1867 the Reform League organised demonstrations of hundreds of thousands of people in Manchester, Glasgow, and other towns. The high point came when a demonstration in May 1867 in Hyde Park was banned by the government. Thousands of troops and policemen were prepared, but the crowds were so huge that the government did not dare to attack. The Home Secretary, **Spencer Walpole**, was forced to resign. The League's action contributed to the 1867 Reform Act which widened male voting rights to all

### THE MEMBERS FOR THE BOROUGH AND THE REFORM MEETING.

Mr. R. [Bateson] the secretary to the Reform League, forwarded a copy of the resolutions passed at the Town Hall meeting on February 12 to the members for the borough. He has received the following replies:—

"London, Reform Club, Feb. 15, 1867.

"Dear Sir—Many thanks for the copy of resolutions. They prove that the right spirit prevails, and I hope the whole country will respond with one voice.

"Yours truly,

WILLIAM SCHOLEFIELD.

"Mr. Roger Bateson."

## Settle Graveyard Project

male Heads of House including working class men in urban areas, doubling the number of men that could vote. Further campaigning resulted in the 1884 Act which included men in rural areas. Trade Unions were recognised as legal entities with the right to be protected under the law in 1871. Roger was the secretary for the Birmingham Branch and regularly contributed to the papers [6].

Roger was 71 when he died and was buried with wife, Emma, a 20 year old daughter, Nellie and a son, Thomas Roland Bateson who was 51 when he died.

***Roger Bateson who died 20th Aug 1908 and Emma who died April 14th 1913 also of Nellie their daughter who died February 12th 1891. Also of Thomas Roland their son, devoted husband of Esther Bateson who died March 16th 1927 aged 51.***



Meanwhile Thomas and Nancy's eldest son, **William Bateson**, followed his father to become a stonemason. He was already working in Thornton-in-Lonsdale when his parents died. In 1861, aged 35, he married **Hannah Coates**, a weaver's daughter from Tatham. For some reason they soon moved to Long Preston and had six children before Hannah died in 1873 aged 35. A year later William married again. His second wife was widow **Jennett (Hall) Andison** who helped to bring up the younger children. They were buried in an unmarked grave in Long Preston graveyard. William and Hannah's eldest daughter, **Nancy Bateson** moved out to live with great-uncle **Joseph Jackson**, plumber and cave explorer, who had married Nancy Harger's sister **Maria Harger**. Nancy Bateson was only 34 when she died. William and Hannah's daughter **Mary Ann Bateson** lived with great-aunt and uncle **Wilkinson Newsholme** at Hellifield Green.

William and Hannah's son **Thomas Roger Bateson** became a carpenter. He moved back to Settle and married **Mary Hawkswell** whose parents had run the Old Sun Inn on Albert Hill (near Twisleton's Yard) until its licence was revoked in 1870. Thomas Roger and Mary Bateson lived in Chapel Square and had two sons, William and Robert. They moved to Skipton just before the war. Son **Robert Bateson** worked as a shop assistant until called up to serve [ph6]. He served in the Skipton Territorials before being mobilised to the 'Lincolns'. At the western front he was transferred to the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment. He died of wounds to his arms and legs on 23 December 1916, ages 22. Thomas Roger Bateson died just over a year later, aged 50. Did he have any appreciation that his grandfather built the church alongside the graveyard he was to be buried in?



***Treasured Memories of a dear father Thomas Roger Bateson who died 2nd November 1917 aged 50 years. Also a dear mother Mary Bateson who died 19th April 1956 aged 86 years. Rest in Peace, Old H41***

Widow Mary went to live with their other son, **William Bateson**, who survived the war and worked on the railways in Skipton. She was brought back for burial with Thomas Roger.



*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*

## *Settle Graveyard Project*

*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'.*

*Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Kendal Mercury, 2 – Lancaster Guardian, 3 – Lancaster Gazette, 4 – Lakes Chronicle and Reporter, 5 – Norwood News, 6 – Birmingham Daily Gazette*

*ph1 – Thanks to Holy Ascension Church for the use of their archives, ph2 – thanks to descendant Paul Wiltshire, ph3 – credited to family descendants via [Ancestry.co.uk](http://Ancestry.co.uk), username Paul Hartley, ph4 – thanks to descendant Peter Thomson, ph5 – credited to family descendants via [Ancestry.co.uk](http://Ancestry.co.uk), username parkesgk, ph6 – credited to Craven's Part in the Great War*