

Matthias Mason, stockbroker

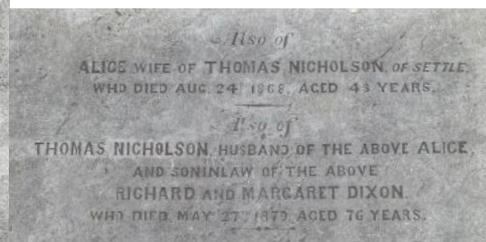
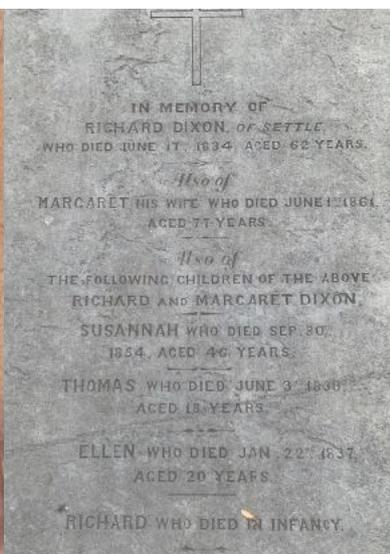
Matthias Mason, born in 1779 in Yockenthwaite and his wife **Margaret Procter** from Horton-in-Ribblesdale ran Hurries Farm near Otterburn. Their success is illustrated by the quality of their gravestone at Consiston Cold church.



In memory of the late Matthias Mason of Otterburn who died June 18th 1857 aged 78 years. Also Margaret mason, his wife who died Sept 8th 1866 aged 83 years

Son **William Mason** and his wife **Ann Horner** ran a farm in Linton/Grassington. When William died in 1868, aged 50, Ann brought the five children to live in Settle at the Town Hall. Ann stayed there until she died in 1896 aged 79 and was probably buried with William back in Grassington.

William and Ann's daughter **Margaret Elizabeth Mason** worked as the Town Hall librarian until, aged 26, she married **John Swindlehurst Nicholson**, a farmer's son. John's parents Thomas and Alice (Dixon) Nicholson [ph1] were buried with maternal ancestors in a grave enormous gravestones now form part of the path outside the front of the church. There was money in that family! John worked as a 'student of medicine' until he inherited from his parents and then didn't need to work. They had two sons and lived in Liverpool



In memory of Richard Dixon of Settle who died 17th June 1834 aged 62 years. Also of Margaret his wife who died June 1st 1861 aged 77 years. Also of the following children of the above Richard and Margaret Dixon: Susannah who died Sep. 30th 1854 aged 46 years; Thomas who died June 3rd 1830 aged 18 years; Ellen who died Jan. 22nd 1837 aged 20 years; Richard who died in infancy.

Also of Alice wife of Thomas Nicholson of Settle who died Aug. 24th 1868 aged 48 years. Also of Thomas Nicholson husband of the above Alice and son-in-law of the above Richard and Margaret Dixon who died May 27th 1879 aged 76 years. A1j/14a/b

William and Ann Mason's son, **Richard Mason**, lived with Margaret and John in Liverpool, working as the headmaster of St Augustine's Church School. When he was 52 Richard married **Sarah Ann Lomas**, a mechanic's daughter, over 20 years his junior.

Richard was a pretty good organist. In 1873, aged 20, he was organist at Giggleswick church where he was 'the first man to play an organ in the church in which the services had previously been led by a 'cellist'. From there he served St Augustine's Church as organist and choirmaster,



a fact celebrated by the newspapers after 50 years and then after 62 years (at the age of 85) [1]. He was held in high esteem being the President of the Organists and Choirmaster's Association. Mr Mason was a 'tall, upright man who did not like modern music'. Richard eventually died when he was 86.

Organist For Fifty Years.
Mr. **Richard Mason** received recently a presentation in recognition of the fact that for fifty years he has been organist and choirmaster of St. Augustine's Church, Shaw-street, Liverpool. He has known

since its inception in 1897, and in 1917 and 1918 was president of the Organists and Choirmasters' Association. He is a link with a past era of church music, for in 1873 he was organist at Giggleswick Parish Church, where he was the first man to play an organ in the church in which the services had previously been led by a 'cellist.

William and Ann's son **William Mason** started life as a tobacconist and coal dealer — a potentially lucrative occupation. During the 1890s he emigrated to Toronto and worked as an engine driver but died in 1905, aged 45 of pneumonia [LSA].

8. Death of Mr. William Mason, at Toronto, Canada, formerly of Settle, at the age of 46 years.—Harvest Festival at Langcliffe Wesleyan Chapel.

William and Ann's daughter **Mary Ann Mason** remained a spinster. When sister Margaret married, Mary Ann took over as librarian at the Town Hall. At the time of the 1911 census Mary Ann was also looking after her 88 year old aunt **Clara (Mason) Denby** at Mains View.

William and Ann's son **Matthias Mason** started working life as a solicitor's clerk but evolved to become a stockbroker, still based at the Town Hall [CH]. He made a good trade dealing with the shares for the Settle Market Buildings Company Ltd, the company which built the top floor of the Shambles and then made an income from rentals [ph1]. For a while he had a clerk, a young **Harold Henry Holden** who became a very talented artist and teacher. Matthias also had investments in property. In 1897 it transpired that Matthias was joint owner of the Cross Streets Inn outside Austwick [CH] — the co-owner was brother-in-law John Swindlehurst Nicholson.

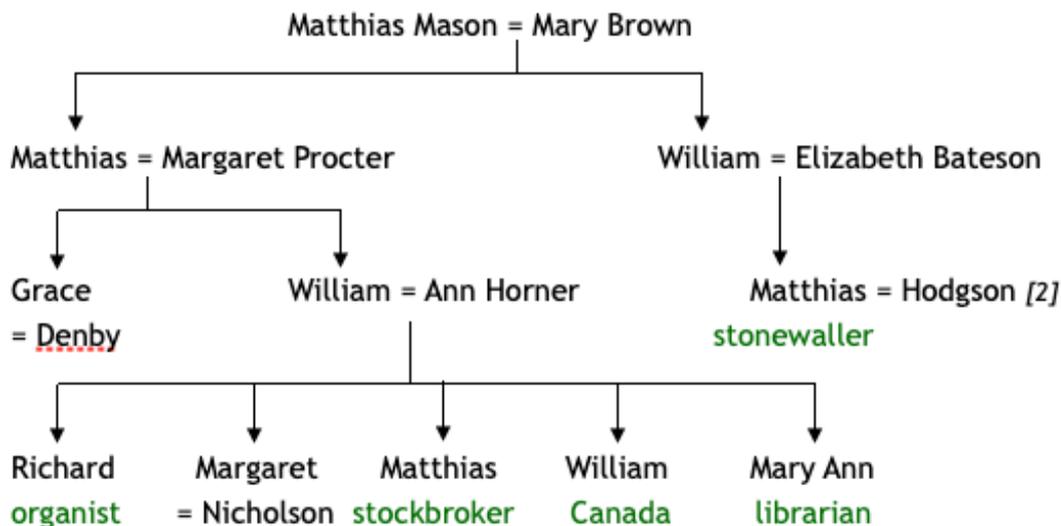
MATTHIAS MASON,
STOCK AND SHARE BROKER
SETTLE.



In 1899, when he was 41 Matthias married **Eliza Johnson**, a cattle dealer's daughter from Kendal. Eliza died in 1907, aged 39. A year later Matthias married **Jane Eglin**, a Liverpool cow keeper's daughter. They moved to Morecambe, perhaps for health reasons. When Matthias died in 1915, aged 57 he was brought back for burial with his first wife Eliza in the unmarked *Old FX* 68. Jane died three years later in Liverpool.

TO BE LET, with possession almost immediately. All that well known **FARM** and **INN** situated at "Cross Streets," near Austwick, and comprising about 50 acres more or less of excellent Meadow and Pasture Land, in a high state of cultivation. A capital posting business can be done, as it is a good centre.—Apply personally or by letter to Mr **Matthias Mason**, New-street, Settle; or to Mr **John S. Nicholson**, 116, Queen's road, Everton, Liverpool.

Mason Family Tree



There is one other member of this family in our graveyard. Our original Matthias Mason, born in 1779, had a younger brother, **William Mason**. William worked as an agricultural labourer in Langcliffe. William's son **Matthias Mason** worked as a dry stone waller and lived on Belle Hill in Giggleswick. In 1889 he bid for a house, garden stables and sheds in Tams Street Giggleswick at an

auction by *James Maudsley* [2]. Matthias' first wife was **Susan James** from Cornwall but she died within five years of their wedding. His second wife was **Sarah Hodgson**, sister of the remarkable joiner *Samuel Hodgson* who had immense success despite being deaf and dumb. Matthias was buried at Langcliffe with

SALE OF PROPERTY.—On Tuesday last, Mr James Maudsley, auctioneer, offered for sale, at the Black Horse Inn, Giggleswick, several dwelling houses situate at Giggleswick. The property was put up in two lots, lot 1 consisting of a dwelling house with garden, fronting to the Teins Beck, two byres, stable, and manure shed adjoining. Lot 2, four dwelling houses, fronting to the Main-street. Lot 1 was put into bidding at £200 by Mr. Matthias Mason, of Giggleswick, and was withdrawn at £230. Mr.

his first wife and Sarah was buried in Settle graveyard in

Old G51 with her nephew **Samuel Hodgson** and his wife **Agnes Metcalfe**.

In loving memory of Sarah Mason died June 3rd 1912 aged 71 years. Also of Agnes beloved wife of Samuel Hodgson born April 27th 1862 died January 15th 1922. Also the above Samuel Hodgson born Jan 31st 1860 died May 25th 1943, Old G51



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

Settle Graveyard Project

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Liverpool Echo, 2 – Lancaster Standard

CH - with the kind permission of the Craven Herald and Pioneer

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

ph1 – credited to the Back in Settle Facebook page, the Ben Mackenzie collection, ph2 – credited to the Back in Settle Facebook page