

## Elizabeth Hutton Dawson, a very wealthy spinster



Miss Dawson, photograph by the Horner Studio. Horner Collection©NCBPT (CC-BY 4.0)

The envelope containing this incredible photographic plate tells us that this elderly lady is **Miss Dawson** of Marshfield and was taken in 1866, in the earliest days of the Horner photography business. Unusually, Miss Dawson is pictured in a room rather than in the Horner studios. She is wearing a huge voluminous dress, typical of the 1860s when crinoline was fashionable. She is looking out of a window which is also quite unusual. She looks a bit tired, possibly incapacitated in some way?

A newspaper article [SC] tells us that **Elizabeth Hutton Dawson** of Marshfield passed away on 26 September in 1866, aged 86, soon after the photo was taken. No wonder she looked tired! Perhaps she had her photo taken at home because she was incapacitated and couldn't get to the studio, or it could be because she was a member of the aristocracy and therefore deserved individual treatment. Marshfield Mansion on Kirkgate was built around 1750 for Thomas Salisbury and the Dawsons were here by the early 19th century.



September 26th ult., in her 87th year, Miss Elizabeth Hutton Dawson, of Marshfield, Settle; and Audley, Sidmouth: youngest daughter of the late Rev. Richard Dawson, Rector of Bolton-by-Bowland.

Elizabeth Hutton Dawson was the youngest of three daughters of **Reverend Richard Dawson** and his wife **Margaret Long Hutton**. She had three brothers but **Josias Dawson** died aged 24 in 1806, little **William Dawson** died an infant in 1781 and **Richard Dawson** (Jnr) died in Sinnington, near Pickering in 1807, aged 25. Reverend Richard's ancestral home was Halton Gill but he was the rector of St Peter and St Paul's church in Bolton by Bowland, the latest from generations of his family who had served the church there. The church dates back to 1190 but almost all the existing building dates from the middle of the 15th century, when it was built by **Sir Ralph Pudsey**, the Lord of the Manor of Bolton, and Richard's direct ancestor. Inside



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the church there is a remarkable, huge memorial to Sir Ralph Pudsey, who died in 1648, featuring a limestone slab carved with figures of Sir Ralph, his three wives, and 25 children! Sir Ralph lived at the impressive Bolton Hall, Bolton-by-Bowland [ph2] and provided refuge for **King Henry VI** during the War of the Roses. King Henry is said to have left boots, gloves and a spoon in the hall when he escaped but was captured shortly afterwards on the outskirts of Clitheroe. The hall fell into disrepair and was demolished in 1959.

In 1821, aged 43, Elizabeth's middle sister **Jane Constantine Dawson** became the second wife of **Pudsey Dawson** who was her fourth cousin and had been living at Sinnington Manor, near Pickering, following Richard Dawson (Jnr) above. Pudsey's father, another **Pudsey Dawson**, had been the Lord Mayor of Liverpool in 1800. In 1840, after a long court case, Pudsey inherited and renovated the very impressive Hornby Castle from his uncle **Admiral Sandford Tatham** in 1840, [ph3]. This Pudsey was a JP, the Chair of the North Ribblesdale Agricultural Association (with whom he won several awards for his own produce) and the Chair of the North Western Railway overseeing the construction of the Skipton to Lancaster line — he cut the first sod on 28 September 1848. Elizabeth Hutton Dawson spent her life living with Jane (and Pudsey) and their eldest sister, spinster **Mary Long Dawson** at Hornby Castle, Marshfield or their property in Sidmouth on the south coast of Devon.



Rev Richard Dawson had regular contact with his daughters. **William Lodge Paley**, schoolmaster, bookseller and diarist wrote in June 1821 that he left magazines for Rev Dawson at Marshfield. [WLP] In March 1826 Rev Dawson died and so, in July 1826 'a note from Miss Dawson induced me to go to Marshfield, was asked if I would accept Mr Dawson's hat and wear it for his sake as they wished to give it to someone respectable person and not in the near neighbourhood. Of course I promised if it would fit me' [WLP].

July 15.—A note from Miss Dawson induced me to go to Marshfield—was asked if I would accept Mr. Dawson's hat and wear it for his sake, as they wished to give it to some respectable person and not in the near neighbourhood. Of course I promised if it would fit me. Mr. Faraday and I arranged

Aug. 9.—Recd. a hat, coat, waistcoat and spencer from Mrs. Bolland, all good ones—wh. belonged to late Rev. R. Dawson—to wear or give away.

On 1 August William wrote to Miss Dawson to thank her for her kind offer and then on 9 August he received a hat, coat, waistcoat and spencer from **Mrs Bolland** (Elizabeth's first cousin), all good ones, which belonged to the late Rev R Dawson. A 'spencer' had only recently come into fashion — it was a woollen outer tailcoat but without the tails originally named after the second Earl Spencer who had his coat adapted after an accidental fire which burnt the tails!

At the time of the 1844 Settle Tithe survey sisters Mary and Elizabeth owned 71 acres of farmland, pasture and meadow, cottages, croft and barns on the lower side of Upper Settle Green and both Marshfield and the adjacent Bond End house. Meanwhile Elizabeth's fourth cousins, brothers **Henry Dawson** and **Frederick Dawson** owned at least 543 acres of land as well as Langcliffe Hall and The Folly and its gardens.

In 1838 Elizabeth and her sister Mary were involved in plans to turn and divert 31 yards of Bond Lane which now exits opposite Marshfield [4]. It's a classic example of 19th century legalese! The surveyor was **Peter Skirrows**. The map accompanying the Tithe survey shows the changes. The gardens, almost opposite Marshfield were owned by the Dawson sisters and bordered the gardens of the **Birkbeck's** residence at Ashfield. The new Bond Land skirted around the gardens of Birkbeck,

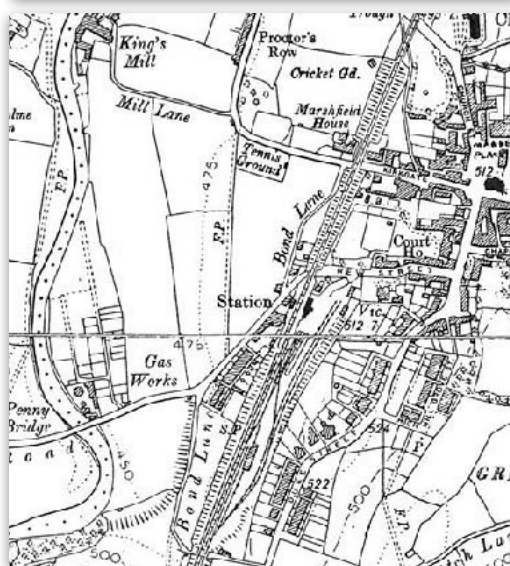
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Order for turning and diverting a portion of a certain Road or Highway, situate in the Township of Settle, in the Parish of Giggleswick, in the West Riding of the County of York, called Bond Lane, leading or branching from the Keighley and Kendal Turnpike Road at the South End of Settle, into a certain Road or Highway leading from Settle to Giggleswick, past Marshfield, to wit the North End of the said Road or Highway, called Bond Lane from a certain door or gate which leads into a Garden, situate in the Township of Settle aforesaid, the property of William Birkbeck, Esquire, so far as the same adjoins on the West Side of a certain Garden, situate in the Township of Settle aforesaid, the property of Miss Mary Long Dawson and Miss Elizabeth Hutton Dawson, to its junction with the said Road, leading from Settle to Giggleswick aforesaid, of the length of Thirty-one Yards or thereabouts, through and over the said Garden, the property of the said Miss Mary Long Dawson and Miss Elizabeth Hutton Dawson, into the said Road, leading from Settle to Giggleswick aforesaid, near the Quaker's Meeting house; and that the Certificate of Two Jus-



turning right around the gardens of the Dawson sisters up towards the Friends' Meeting House (before the railway, of course). Old maps show this route. 'Bond Lane' appears to have been a derivation of 'Bollands Lane', now known as Cammock Lane. The **Bollands**, Elizabeth's first cousins, resided at the old Townhead mansion at the top of Constitution Hill. One map also shows a tennis court below Marshfield, now buried under the site of Booths' supermarket! When the Settle to Carlisle Railway was built between 1869-75 it cut right through the Dawsons' garden, between Marshfield and Bond End House. A single arch viaduct would have been sufficient to carry the railway over Kirkgate, but the 4 arch viaduct was built so that Marshfield and Bond End were saved from destruction, instead of embankments. Bond Lane was rerouted, emerging opposite the front door to Marshfield, although our sisters were dead and buried by then.



In 1839 the sisters, with Pudsey, paid for the building of Stainforth Church and, on 11 July, Pudsey laid the foundation stone [2]. The sisters were known to walk regularly from Marshfield to Stainforth to follow the progress of the work. Following this Elizabeth and sister Mary spent over £400 rebuilding and refurbishing the chapel at Halton Gill and dedicated a stained-glass window to their father whose ancestors were Lords of the Manor there.

Sisters Jane Constantine (Dawson) Dawson and Mary Long Dawson died within six months of each other. Jane died at Marshfield on 5 October 1849, aged 72. This was a very busy time for Pudsey — the railway line from Skipton to Ingleton was opened in September 1849. Mary died in April 1850, aged 74, at their Sidmouth residence. However, her body was

### NEW CHURCH AT STAINFORTH.

On Thursday, the 11th inst., the first stone of a new church, to be built for the accommodation of the inhabitants of Great and Little Stainforth, in the parish of Giggleswick, was laid by Pudsey Dawson, Esq., of Marshfield, at whose sole expense and that of his family the church will be erected and completed. The inclemency of the weather prevented numerous parties from joining in the ceremonies of the day; the attendance, however, was good. On assembling on the ground the hundredth psalm, old version, was sung, after which the inscription was read by the Rev. Rowland Ingram, jun., officiating minister of Giggleswick. It declared the building dedicated to St. Peter, and announced that it was erected at the sole cost and expense of Pudsey Dawson, Esq., and Jane Constantine his wife, Mary Long Dawson, and Elizabeth Hutton Dawson, the three daughters of the late Rev. Richard Dawson, of Halton Gill, and Rector of Bolton-by-Bowland; and endowed by the liberal contributions of the Rev. J. Clapham, late Vicar of Giggleswick; Thos. Brown, Esq., of Stainforth; Thos. Foster, ditto; James Foster, ditto; Anthony Slackburn, ditto; Thos. Reelmayne, ditto; Miss Prestons and others the principal inhabitants of the township of Stainforth. The stone was then laid by Pudsey Dawson, Esq., and the declaration made by the founder, concluding with "God save the Queen," followed by hearty cheering.

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**THE FUNERAL OF THE LATE MISS DAWSON.**—  
The remains of the late lamented Miss Dawson, of Audley Sidmouth and Marshfield, Settle, cousin to Pudsey Dawson, Esq., of Hornby Castle, were interred in the family vault, Giggleswick, on the 21st inst. The funeral service was performed by the Rev. Rowland Ingram, the vicar. The mournful procession proceeded to the church in the following order:—

Tenants, two abreast.  
Undertakers, Mr. Hardacre, of Settle, and Mr. Pritt, of Lancaster.  
Two Mutes, with Wands.  
**THE HEARSE,**  
Drawn by Four Horses, on either side of which walked Four Underbearers, in Cloaks and Silk Scarfs.  
Mourning Coach, drawn by Four Horses, containing Pudsey Dawson, Esq., Rev. Willoughby Rooke, and Thos. Clarke, Esq.  
The late Miss Dawson's Carriage—Empty.  
Pudsey Dawson's Carriage—Empty.  
William Robinson's Carriage, containing William Robinson, Esq., Dixon Robinson, Esq., and Rev. Mr. Jones.

Thos. Birkbeck's Carriage, containing Thos. Birkbeck, Esq. and Rev. Mr. Jones.  
Phaeton, containing John Gibbins, Esq. and John Jackson, Esq.  
R. Carr's Carriage, containing R. Carr, Esq.  
On arriving at the Church, the following gentlemen took up their position as pall bearers:—

Wm. Robinson, Esq., Settle.	<b>THE BODY.</b>	Dixon Robinson, Esq., Clitheroe Castle.
Richard Carr, Esq., Stackhouse.		George Hartley, Esq., Settle.
Rev. Thos. Staniforth, Bolton.		Thomas Birkbeck Esq., Settle.
Henry Littledale, Esq., Bolton Hall.		Reverend Willoughby Rooke, Beetham.

The funeral was conducted by Mr. Hardacre, of Settle, in a manner satisfactory to all parties.

brought back to Settle for burial in the family vault at Giggleswick. The report of her funeral gives us a taste of the aristocratic life in those days [1]. The hearse was drawn by four horses followed by several mourning coaches and attended by the great and the good of the area including the *Robinsons* (second cousins) the *Birkbecks*, the Postmaster *John Gibbins* and *John Jackson*, the manager of Craven Bank who, coincidentally, rented Bond End from the sisters. Funerals were not suitable places for ladies, of course, although they would wear black for a year or two afterwards. In the same year as Mary's death the sisters donated a peel of six bells to Giggleswick church [ph5]. There is a plaque on the first floor of the bell tower:

### BELLS.

There were formerly only three bells in Giggleswick Church tower, as was the case in so many places. Here, as in other parishes, children set the three notes to the words "Three blind mice" or "Come to Church" according to their fancy. The present peel of six were hung in 1850; they were cast by Messrs. Mears at the White-chapel Bell Foundry in London, during the time of the Rev. Rowland Ingram, M.A., Vicar. They were given by the Miss Dawsons of Marshfield.

The fittings were re-adjusted in 1893 by Messrs. Taylor of Loughborough, and again in 1895 some additional improvements were made in the arrangement of the ropes, &c.

*This peel of 6 bells given by Mary Long Dawson & Elizabeth Hutton Dawson of Halton Gill & Marshfield to the Parish Church of Giggleswick A.D 1850.*

Elizabeth was now alone but continued to live a luxurious lifestyle at the top end of society. She won a number of awards at the Agricultural Show. She was a benefactor to a number of mainly church related causes.

1828 — £20 guineas towards a collection for building churches [WLP]

1829 — £210 for the restoration of York Minster.

1855 — £50 towards the building of Settle parsonage as a residence for the vicar, **William Frederick Pierson**.

offered some time ago. Was at church forenoon when Mr. Ingram preached and a collection for building churches amounted to £46. of wh: 20 guineas came from Mr. Dawson, Marshfield.

1856 — £5 towards a new hearse in Giggleswick which cost a total of £90. Second cousin **William Robinson** paid for a new hearse house and harness room for it.

1857 — £500 to Bishop Longley's Endowment Scheme to augment the poor incumbencies in the diocese of Ripon.

1858 — £50 towards the building of the new church at Hellifield, and £20 towards building a new steeple, new windows and other improvements at Tossie Chapel

1859 — £5 towards the Settle Volunteer Rifle Corps

1862 — £10 to the Tossie Chapel Augmentation Fund to increase the income (and vicar's salary) of the chapel.

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1864 — £5 towards Ripon cathedral restoration.

In 1860 Elizabeth paid for the construction of Hornby Parsonage, just as Hornby acquired the status as an independent parish [1]. In 1889 St Margaret's Church in Hornby was re-opened following a major restoration project. The pulpit, made of oak *'was the gift in 1861 of Richard John Shields and his mother, in memory of Elizabeth Hutton Dawson who erected the adjoining parsonage'* [1]. The dates are not quite right but it's a nice story.

Hornby Parsonage was built by Miss Dawson in 1860. Under Lord Blandford's Act the Chapelry of Hornby was converted into a separate parish. The perpetual curacy is worth about £130 per annum with a glebe of five acres. As Hornby was formerly

The pulpit is also of oak, and was the gift in 1861 of Richard John Shields and his mother, in memory of Elizabeth Hutton Dawson who erected the adjoining parsonage. A new boundary wall has been built adjoining the road and much lower than the old one, so that the church is now open to view. Messrs.

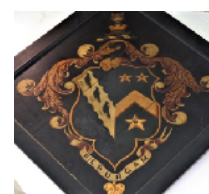
In a wonderful glimpse into Elizabeth's world we find that in 1855 she attended a concert performance of Handel's Oratorio 'Samson' by Settle Choral Society *'before a most respectable audience, including nearly all the principal families in the neighbourhood; amongst the audience we were gratified in observing Miss Dawson of Marshfield and her guests, the Bishop of Chichester and family.'*[SC] A new organ had just been installed, prompting the concert.

SETTLE CHORAL SOCIETY'S CONCERT.—On Thursday last July 26th, this Society gave Handel's Oratorio "Samson," before a most respectable audience, including nearly all the principal families in the neighbourhood; amongst the audience we were gratified in observing Miss Dawson, of Marshfield, and her guests, the Bishop of Chichester, and family; J. W. Farrer Esq., of Ingleborough, and his visitors, Sir John Anson, and Lady. We believe that we are only expressing the opinion of all present, in saying that it was one of their most successful performances; The Hall has been painted throughout since it was last opened to the public, which has greatly improved its general appearance. But the great attraction on this occasion was the new Organ which has just been put up.

1860 was a busy year for Elizabeth. Langcliffe Hall had been owned by the Dawson family for decades but, in 1816, Pudsey Dawson, (the Mayor of Liverpool) died and son Pudsey (of Sinnington and later of Hornby Castle) sold it to wealthy widow **Ann Swale**. Ann later provided one-third of the funds to build Holy Ascension Church in Settle, upon the condition that her son was the first incumbent, which indeed he was. Ann died in February 1859, aged 86 and Elizabeth took this opportunity to buy Langcliffe Hall back again and refurbish it. She may have heard rumours about the building of a new railway which could impact on Marshfield and so had a strategy for an alternative residence! It has remained in the family ever since.

When Elizabeth died in 1866 there was no obituary or report of the funeral in the papers. At the time of the next census Marshfield was inhabited by solicitor **Charles Henry Charlesworth** and his wife **Sarah Georgina Stansfeld**, a descendant of the Birkbeck family. However since Elizabeth's death work had begun on the construction of the Settle to Carlisle Railway, bisecting the Dawsons land and property and it would have been a long way from the peace and quiet of the Miss Dawsons' days.

The Memorial Chapel at Giggleswick Church contains several plaques dedicated to this family. The North Wall has a Dawson/Pudsey hatchment dating back to 1762. This was made for the death of William Dawson (owner of The Folly) who had married Jane Pudsey. It was carried in front of the funeral cortege into the church but then hung outside the Dawson residence for a year to show they were in mourning. This one had then been returned to the chapel. On the South Wall there is a copper plaque displaying the Dawson family arms. The arms feature the 'daws', the old fashioned name for jackdaws, quite appropriate for the Dawson family. It also features a cat with a rat in its mouth which was nothing to do with Pudsey Dawson having to bring in numerous cats to get rid of rats as it predates that! It's true derivation is unclear[A]. It reads:



***Beneath this chapel lie the mortal remains of Pudsey Dawson, 1859, Jane Constantine Dawson, 1849, Mary Long Dawson, 1850, Elizabeth Hutton Dawson, 1866.***

Outside the East Window there are steps descending to the family vault and a large 'D' above the window marks the spot. Only the most wealthy residents were actually buried under the floor of churches, unfortunately giving rise to the expression of the '*stinking rich*' as their bodies decayed. The Dawson family vault contained numerous members of this family's ancestors including, no doubt, the remains of **Josias Dawson** who was the vicar from 1720-1730. Elizabeth has an additional plaque to the left of the east window of this chapel which acknowledges her ownership of Langcliffe Hall. It's very dark but reads:

***To the glory of God and in memory of Elizabeth Hutton Dawson of Marshfield and Langcliffe Hall, last survivor of the family of the Rev. Richard Dawson, Rector of Bolton by Bowland, and died 26 of Sept. 1866 aged 86 years.***

Obviously, Elizabeth died a very wealthy woman and left an estate of some £40,000, at least £3 million today's value, in the capable hands of her executor, fellow spinster and first cousin, once removed, **Margaret Bolland** who resided at Townhead. The will was an enormously detailed document of 28 pages prepared in 1863 by **Thomas Batty** and **Joseph Jackman**, clerks to the **Hartley** firm of solicitors. So, what happened to all that money?

Margaret Bolland was the sole executor of the will, but Elizabeth directed solicitors **William Robinson** and **Alfred Robinson** of Blackburn, second cousins once removed, and their heirs in years to come to raise £10,000 for Margaret by mortgaging the Neal's Ing estate and then manage the estate. As banks hadn't really taken off yet, as with most other wealthy families, almost all of Elizabeth's money was tied up in shares and loans or property, generating a hearty income. Neal's Ing on the foothills of Penyghent was a huge estate covering land over towards Kirkby Malham, down towards Halton Gill as well as the Giggleswick Parish. Neal's Ing was '*for the use of Margaret Bolland for life*' and then for the use of William and Alfred Robinson. Langcliffe Hall estate, including Barrel Sykes was to be for the use of her first cousin once removed, widow **Jane (Bolland) Perfect** and her heirs for life on the condition that she would '*use and bear the surname and Arms of Dawson*' forevermore. Sure enough, in 1879, **Queen Victoria** decreed that Jane's son, **William Mosley Perfect** may use the '*name Dawson in lieu of Perfect and bear the Arms of Dawson only*' [5]. She directed that the tenants in all her properties should retain their right of being tenants for life, subject to paying their rent.

CHANGE OF NAME.—The Queen has granted to Mr William Mosley Perfect, of Langcliffe Hall, Giggleswick, in the West Riding, her royal license that he and his issue may use the name of Dawson in lieu of that of Perfect, and bear the arms of Dawson only.

Elizabeth's left all her wearing apparel, jewellery and trinkets and household consumables including wines, linens and most of her books from both properties to Margaret Bolland. She gave some enormous legacies to family members, despite some being very distant relations. These included £5000 to second cousin **William Robinson** and £1000 to **Dixon Robinson**, William's brother. William and Dixon were the fathers of William and Alfred Robinson, above. She gave £7000 to her first maternal cousin **Rev Ashhurst Tanner Gilbert**, the Bishop of Chichester [ph6] (remember him?) on condition that out of the interest he paid £100 each to his niece and nephew and £50 to each of his sisters. Many of her legacies were to women — numerous wives and widows of clerical men and many local women. One of these was **Mary Littledale**, the widow of



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**Henry Anthony Littledale.** Henry's mum was **Mary Dawson**, the sister of Pudsey Dawson at Hornby Castle, and so another fourth cousin. The Littledales resided at Bolton Hall, following in Sir Ralph's footsteps! Settle surgeon, **Edward Harrison** was given £50. Mysteriously she gave £100 to **Peter Orlando Hutchinson** [ph3] of Sidmouth *'as a mark of friendship and of my respect for his recent conduct and adherence to the truth through good aspects and evil £100'*. Interesting! Peter was a prolific Sidmouth artist who, helpfully, painted a self portrait! He was the great grandson to **Thomas Hutchinson**, the controversial Governor of Massachusetts, prominent in events such as the Boston Tea Party that led to the American Revolution. Five volumes of Peter's illustrated diaries and over 750 of his sketches are stored in the Devon Records Office.



Elizabeth gave *'each of my servants who shall be in my service at the time of my decease'* a full year's salary, in addition to what they were owed at the time of her death. **Charles Hughes**, her gardener at Audley, **Mrs Ann Herring**, housekeeper at Marshfield (who was unmarried but convention dictated housekeepers should always be 'Mrs'), her private maid **Ann Life**, and **Caroline Cox**, her (married) sister's late maid were each given a yearly sum of £30 for life. In addition, widow **Jane (Bolland) Perfect** at Langcliffe Hall was to receive £200 per year for the rest of her life. These were to be paid in half yearly instalments. The Trustees of Settle National School and Stainforth National School were given £200 to be invested by them, and the interest used to augment the salary of the headmaster.

At the time of the 1841 census Elizabeth lived with her sisters and brother-in-law, and servants of course, at Hornby Castle but, at the time of the 1851 and 1861 census lived at Audley House in Sidmouth which has since been destroyed and appears to be a retirement housing complex now. Elizabeth may have been pleased about that! The observant Settle resident will know that a separate living area at the south east side of Marshfield is called *'Audley House'* even to this day! Elizabeth must have been fond of it! The diaries of William Lodge Paley suggest that they frequently travelled to and from Devonshire, usually staying for months at a time. Soon after their father's death the Miss Dawsons went to Devonshire for 7 months [WLP]. In another entry William went to pay his respects upon their return in June 1828 at the same time asking the housekeeper if Miss Dawson would *'write me an introduction to Mrs Littledale, Halton Place, where I would solicit her custom for books.'* That's how it worked in those days! In fact, the Littledales (remember them?) had gone to Bolton (by Bowland) and would be visiting next week when she *'preferred mentioning me then'*[WLP]. In October 1829 the *'Miss Dawsons sent for their bill as they are leaving for Devonshire in their own coach'*. They kept three servants at Marshfield even while they were away — the housekeeper, Ann Herring, two house servants and a gardener.

Oct. 2.—Took quarterly review to Marshfield and was sorry to hear Miss Dawsons are gone into Devonshire for 7 months.

back. The Misses Dawson are returned to Marshfield so I called and left my respects asking Mrs. Carr if Miss D. would write me an introduction to Mrs. Littledale, Halton Place, where I would solicit her custom for books.

June 14.—Miss Dawson says Mrs. L. has gone to Bolton where they should visit her next week and preferred mentioning me then.

October 5.—The Miss Dawsons sent for their bill, as they are leaving for Devonshire in their own coach. Was

Next door to Elizabeth in the 1851 and 1861 censuses, at Audley Cottage, lived **Robert Mackinnon**, her land steward with his wife **Margaret Ann Wordsall** and their four children. Robert was originally from Helmsley, North Yorkshire, but moved into the Misses Dawsons' employment at the

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age of 21. This was a family affair as Robert's older brother, **Matthew Mackinnon**, was the gardener at Audley, before Charles Hughes. At the time of the 1841 census Robert was at Hornby Castle with the Dawson family while Margaret Ann and some of their children remained in Audley Cottage. All their children were born in Sidmouth. Presumably Robert travelled with the Dawsons wherever they went. Settle residents knew Robert well as, in 1863, '*a handsome tea service of late, consisting of tea-pot, sugar basin and cream jug*' was presented by the tenants of Miss Dawson's estates to Robert Mackinnon who had been her land steward over a period upwards of 36 years . . . . . *as a token of acknowledgement for his faithful and impartial management amongst them*' [1]. Robert will have collected rent and managed maintenance issues and so must have been very well respected to receive that generosity from the tenants themselves! However, the financial value of these presents pales into insignificance compared to Miss Dawson's contributions. Did Miss Dawson give him a retirement present? . . .

TESTIMONIAL.—Recently a handsome tea service of plate, consisting of tea-pot, sugar basin, and cream jug, has been presented by the tenantry on the estates of Miss Dawson, of Marshfield, Settle, to Mr. Robert Mackinnon, who has been her land steward over a period of upwards of 36 years, and is much respected and esteemed amongst them. The tea-pot bears the following inscription, "This service of plate was presented by the tenantry of [Miss] Dawson, of [Marshfield], Settle, Yorkshire, to her said Steward, Robert Mackinnon, as a token of acknowledgment for his faithful and impartial management amongst them, for a period of 36 years, 1861." The other articles are inscribed with the initials "R. M."

Robert's wife Margaret Ann died in Sidmouth in 1859, aged 58. Seven years later, on 25 August 1866, Robert remarried, this time to **Jane Wheaton**, ten years his junior, who was the Sidmouth church sexton's daughter. However, the wedding was in Settle and the witnesses were the solicitor **Richard Hardacre Buck**, the father of **Dr Charles William Buck**, and Richard's sister **Ellen Buck**. This was just a month before Elizabeth Hutton Dawson's death so perhaps she was unable to attend.

As we know, Robert retired in 1861, aged 57. Robert's eldest son, **Wilson Knowles Mackinnon**, also found himself in Settle. He married **Ann Carr** of Settle in 1861 and they lived with her parents in Kirkgate while William worked as a solicitor's clerk. He was an enthusiastic cricketer and a fine shooter with the North Craven Rifles [SC]. However, ten years later Wilson and Ann were in Liverpool and Wilson was an '*unemployed law stationer*'. Oh dear. He died in 1879, aged just 40, leaving his wife with two sons. Years later she married the wonderfully named **Thomas Berkeley Younghusband**, a London house contractor.

SETTLE.				
	200	400	500	Total.
Private Mackinnon .....	16	16	11	43
Private Bulcock .....	15	14	16	45
Col.-Sergeant Myers .....	18	14	10	42
Sergeant Hutchinson .....	12	14	11	37
Private Jas. Holmes.....	9	11	16	36
Private Ward .....	13	12	11	36
Private Ovington .....	9	15	9	33
Sergeant Robinson .....	16	6	5	27
Private Taylor.....	12	7	6	25
Private Wray .....	15	4	4	23
				352

Robert and Margaret Ann's eldest child, **Margaret Hannah Mackinnon** was well known to Elizabeth as, at the time of the 1841 census, seven year old Margaret was with Robert and the Dawsons at Hornby Castle. In 1862, aged 38 she married a Sidmouth local, **George Rippon**, the son of a bookbinder, and they moved to London and then Oxfordshire. They had one son, **Claude Rippon**. This marriage would have been well regarded and was probably even better with the financial support of Elizabeth. In her will Elizabeth had stated that Margaret Hannah could select eight of her books to keep as well as the plate goods at Audley. In addition, she left Margaret Hannah £200 per year to be paid six monthly. Being the younger sister, Mary Ellen was given £30 yearly. Unfortunately, Margaret Hannah died in 1871, aged 36, when Claude was just five. At the time of the next three census returns, even after Claude had left for boarding school, George was accompanied by Margaret Hannah's younger sister **Mary Ellen Mackinnon**. It was illegal for a man to marry his dead wife's sister in those days but perhaps they found happiness together? Mary

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Ellen died in 1891, aged 54 and it was only then, in 1892, aged 62, that George married again, this time to **Elizabeth Palmer**, 20 years his junior. At the time of each census return George described his occupation as a 'shorthand reporter' or 'journalist'. Upon his death in 1902, aged 71, it transpired that George had become the 'Managing Director and Editor of the Oxford Times'[3] after working at the Daily Telegraph. 'He was well known as one of the most successful and enterprising journalists in the provinces'. He left a generous estate to son Claude who also worked as a journalist and was the 'Managing Director of a Newspaper Company' at the time of the 1911 census, which, of course, was the Oxford Times.

**DEATH OF MR. GEORGE RIPPON.**  
We regret to announce the death of Mr. George Rippon, Managing Director and Editor of the "Oxford Times," which took place on Saturday at his residence, "Seabreeze," Lee-on-the-Solent, Hants, at the age of 71 years. He was well known as one of the most enterprising and successful journalists in the provinces, was a member of the Newspaper Society and a Fellow of the Institute of Journalists. Beginning his career on the staff of the "Daily Telegraph," he afterwards became proprietor and editor of the "Tiverton Gazette." In 1869 he came to Oxford, having acquired the proprietorship of the "Oxford Times," which he soon raised to a position of prosperity and influence. He continued the conduct of the paper, first as proprietor and editor, and afterwards as managing director and editor, up to the time of his death. The funeral takes place to-day (Wednesday), the first part at Lee-on-the-Solent, where he identified himself with parochial work, and the interment at Crofton.

Elizabeth also gave a yearly sum of £20 guineas to Matthew Mackinnon, her first gardener at Audley 'on the condition he refrains from working. If he returns to work, the £20 guineas will cease.' Funnily enough Matthew was working as a gardener at the time of the next census, aged 80! He died in 1874. What about Robert, the land agent? There is no mention of him in the will so he appears to have missed out. Oh dear! What went wrong there then? Robert died in 1876, a 'retired servant', aged 72.



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](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'.

A – heraldic information with thanks to Malcolm Bland. Thanks also to descendant Robert Bell for his contribution to the Langcliffe Millennium Group's booklet 'Langcliffe: Glimpses of a Dales History'.

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Lancaster Gazette, 2 – Yorkshire Gazette, 3 – Oxfordshire Weekly News, 4 – Leeds Intelligencer, 5 – Edinburgh Evening News

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SC – Settle Chronicle, WLP – the diaries of William Lodge Paley with the kind permission of the Museum of North Craven Life

## *Settle Graveyard Project*

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