

Mr Howarth, a well-dressed gentleman

Mr Howarth, Settle, photograph by the Horner Studio. Horner Collection©NCBPT (CC-BY 4.0)

This photo [ph1] from the Horner Collection at The Museum of North Craven Life portrays a well-dressed elderly gentleman with piercing eyes and his walking stick, against a plain background. The inscription on the slide reads, 'Mr Howarth, Settle, 1885'. This was **William Howarth**, a cabinet maker who was born in Feizor.



William was one of five sons and eight daughters of **John Howarth/Howorth** and his wife **Isabella Hodgson** of Melling. Isabella was technically underage, just 18, when they married by licence and so her father, **Matthias Hodgson**, had to give his permission. John and Isabella's eldest child, **Hugh Howarth**, was born three months after the wedding in March 1793 and so a speedy marriage by licence was probably a good idea. John and Isabella moved from Melling to Feizor soon after marrying and stayed there for the rest of their lives. An incredible document from North Yorkshire Archives, dated 1808, (at the end of the account [NY]) shows that John Howarth worked four areas of land within the Thomas Clapham estate. He must have been a wealthy man! Two were alongside the Austwick to Settle Road, one to the east of Feizor and one north of Oxenber Woods. William's sister **Jane Howarth** married into the immensely successful **Johnson** family of farmers based at Paley Green, Giggleswick.

Most of John and Isabella's children had careers locally, in farming. **William Howarth**, the fourth son, was the exception, becoming a cabinet maker. It's likely he undertook an apprenticeship with one of Settle's talented cabinet makers. On 6 October 1844, in Giggleswick, William married **Peggy Parker**, another farmer's daughter, originally from Bolton-le-Sands, north of Morecambe. They were both 35. Interestingly, a daughter, **Isabella Howarth**, the 'daughter of William and Margaret Howarth', was baptised just a fortnight before in Clapham, on 22 September 1844 and her birth was registered straight after the wedding. A son, another **William Howarth**, was born eight years later on 10 June 1851 when Peggy was 43. He was baptised on the same day in a private baptism. Private baptisms were used by the wealthy for a bit of privacy, or by parents who were concerned

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the child might not live until a regular baptism could be organised. Fortunately, little William survived.

William ran a good business and was well regarded in the town. In 1855 he was chosen to be an assessor for the salaries of police constables. That role would have ceased when the new West Riding Constabulary was established in 1857. Around that time William lived in Upper Settle at the foot of the Long Preston high road, at one of the cottages known as Haggletrees. Two of the Haggletrees cottages were put up for auction in 1857 [SC] and, at the time of the following census, William was living in Tatham's Yard, behind Cheapside. During the 1880s electoral registers listed William as the owner of Haggletrees Terrace, so perhaps he bought them in 1857, enhancing his income by renting them out?

COTTAGES, BARN, STABLE, AND CROFT, IN
UPPER SETTLE, TO BE SOLD.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
On WEDNESDAY, 4th MARCH, next,
At the LION HOTEL, IN SETTLE, at SEVEN O'CLOCK in
the Evening, precisely, subject to conditions to be there
produced, all those
TWO COTTAGES
With the Darn, Shippon, Gardens, and Croft to the same
belonging, situated in Upper Settle aforesaid, containing
altogether 3r. 4p. or thereabouts, late in the occupation of
Francis Waddington and William Howarth; together with the
ROPE WALK
Occupied therewith.
Further particulars may be had on application at the
Offices of G. and W. HARTLEY, Solicitors, Settle.
Settle, Feby. 16th, 1857.

In 1861 William placed an advert [SC] thanking his customers for 23 years of support, which would have been soon after his marriage, and informing them that he was relocating to the corner premises opposite the Royal Oak, adjacent to what was the White Horse. The premises had been used by the Hallpike family of cabinet makers and it's quite possible that William had served his apprenticeship with the reputable **Vincent Hallpike**. In turn, **Thomas Marsden**, another joiner, took over William's shop. Poor Thomas had married **Agnes Johnson**, the sister of the successful earthenware dealer, **George Johnson**, but she died six years after their marriage, perhaps with pregnancy/childbirth related issues. Unfortunately, Thomas' joinery business didn't last much longer after the move to William's premises. During the 1860s he moved to Darwen, Lancashire near his brother.

WILLIAM HOWARTH,
JOINER, CABINET MAKER, &c.,
Begs to return his sincere thanks to his friends and the public for the support which he has received from them for the last 23 years, and also begs to state that he has removed to the premises lately occupied by Mr. G. Hallpike, Church Street, where in future he hopes to receive a continuance of their favours.
Church Street, Settle, May 1st, 1861.

THOMAS MARSDEN,
JOINER AND CABINET MAKER,
Begs to announce that he has taken the shop and premises in Settle, (lately occupied by Mr. William Howarth,) where he intends to commence business, and he solicits a share of the public patronage, which it shall be his endeavour to merit by a careful execution of the work entrusted to him.

TO BE LET,
A
PASTURE FIELD
Called NEW CLOSE, situate in the Township of Settle, containing upwards of 7 acres, and now in the occupation of Mr. William Howarth.
Bids will be received by, and information had from Mr. Thomas Procter, of Long Preston, until the 14th February next, and the taker declared immediately after.
Long Preston, Jan. 28th, 1865

In 1865 a pasture field called New Close was advertised 'to let', 'containing upwards of 7 acres and now in the occupation of William Howarth'[SC]. New Close was near the River Ribble in the Cleatop/Mearbeck area, on the way to Long Preston. Tending to this land would have been harder for a man approaching his sixties! William had his Horner photo taken in 1885 when he was 76 and he died four years later 1889. Peggy died a year later, aged 81. They are buried together in the surprisingly unmarked grave Old BX69.

William and Peggy's daughter Isabella Howarth married **Thomas Waller** and they had four children. Thomas was eighth of the thirteen children of **John Waller** who ran the Black Horse in Giggleswick for decades, as had his father before him. Thomas and Isabella ran the Black Horse [ph2] for around 20 years after John Waller died. In 1874 Thomas applied for 'an extension of
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hours until 12pm on the occasion of the workpeople at the Hotel having a "roaring supper" although he was only granted an extension until 11pm [1]. During the 1880s the family relocated to Accrington, Lancashire where Thomas worked as a fireman in an iron foundry and the Black Horse was taken over by **George Jenkinson** who did very well out of it.

PETTY SESSIONS.—TUESDAY LAST.
Before J. Birkbeck, Esq. (chairman), Rev. H. J. Swale, C. Ingleby, and H. Christie, Esqrs.
Extension of Hours.—Thomas Waller, of the Black Horse Inn, Giggleswick, applied for an extension of hours until 12 p.m. on the occasion of the workpeople at the Hostel having a "rearing supper" on Wednesday evening next. The Bench granted until 11 p.m.

William and Peggy's son, **William Howarth (Jnr)**, attended Giggleswick School as a day student and became another cabinet maker, working with his dad. They advertised in the local Almanacs during the 1880s [LSA]. William (Jnr) didn't marry. After William and Peggy died William (Jnr) tried to continue the business alone but, after a few years, became a boarder, with **John Nelson**, the shoemaker and his family, for around 20 years. It's possible the Nelsons moved into William's property.



Sadly, after John Nelson died in 1920 William moved into the workhouse which provided medical care for those who couldn't afford private doctors. He died in 1922, aged 71 and was buried with his parents on New Year's Day 1823.



This account has been compiled 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.

Life stories 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'. The life stories of people with italicised names have been researched as part of the graveyard project.

NY – credited to North Yorkshire Archives

ph1 – Image 2022.1.68.24 from the Horner Photographic Studio Collection provided courtesy of the Museum of North Craven Life, ph2 – with thanks to John Reid

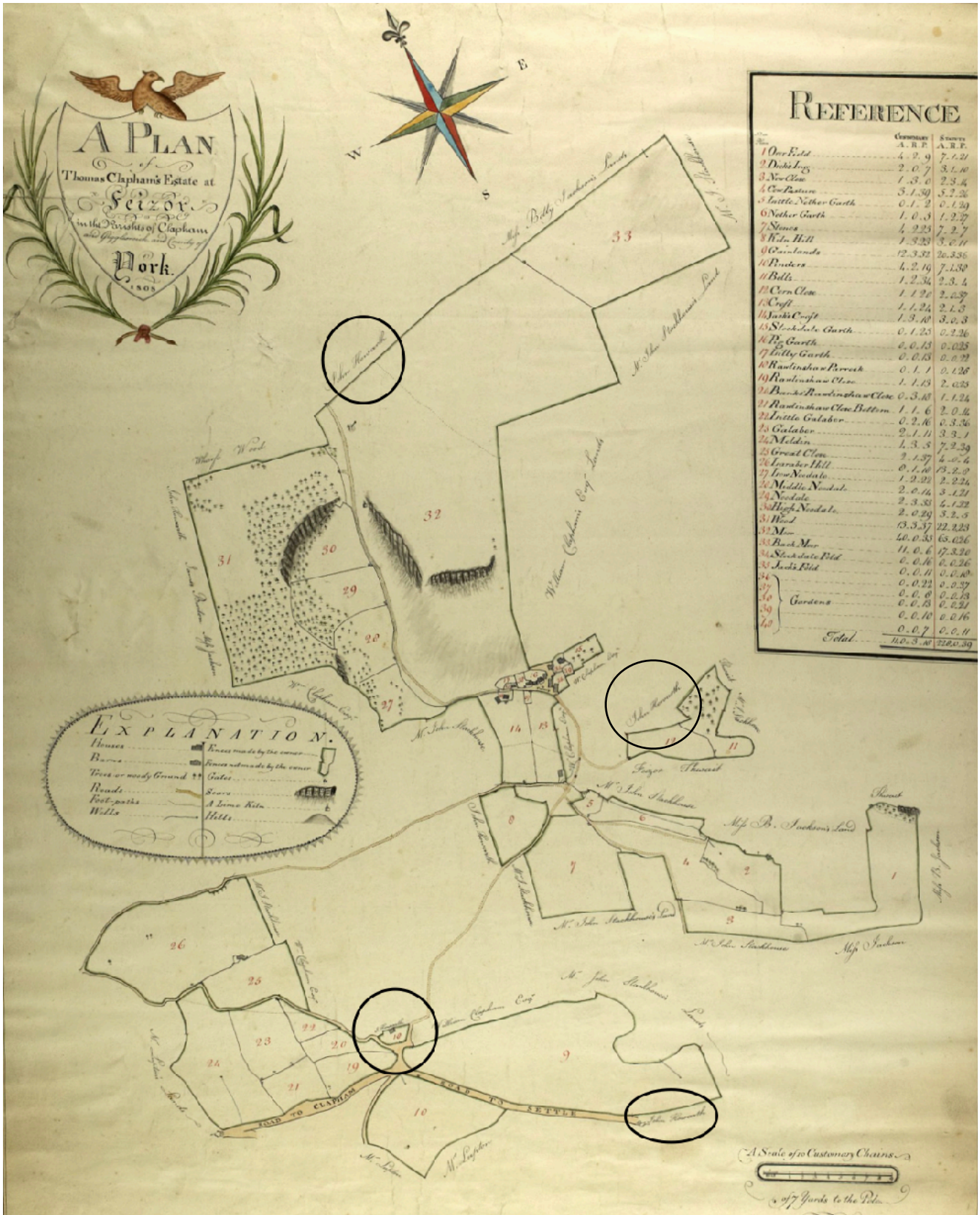


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LSA - Lambert's Settle Almanac, SC – Settle Chronicle, with the kind permission of the Museum of North Craven Life

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Plan of Feizor, 1808, North Yorkshire Archives