

A taste of personal and local history can be found by studying the archive records of these lives. Some of these records can be seen via the links given on this leaflet.

## G Thomas Broadley

Census records for Thomas Broadley are fascinating as in both 1851 and 1871, he isn't at home - but spent the census night 'on board'. In '71 this was the 'Sarah Ann' at Ferrybridge. In '51, his wife and three children are also on board, all moored near Rotherham. He must have been doing well, as the census also records a 'mariner's servant' as part of the crew. Thomas doesn't seem to

appear on the 1861 records, so perhaps he was on a waterway beyond the reach of census agents. Sadly, his demise was mundane. Despite the poignant epitaph, it seems that Thomas fell overboard at night when drunk. The 'York Herald' of 2nd Sept. 1871 reports a 56 year-old Selby mariner had been 'found drowned' in the Aire in Leeds. The full report can be seen via the links given on this leaflet.



## H John Shipston

John Shipston lived in Ousegate in 1851. Census returns for that year tell that his son was a shipwright. The ten properties adjacent to his house show how Selby's economy was linked to transport and the river. Occupants included a ships' carpenter, a waterman, two deckmasters, a railway guard, a boatbuilder as well as John as a mariner.

John was 61 when he gained his master's ticket. To get this, he had spent 34 years in 'coasting and foreign trade', being one of the many Selebian who sailed the Ouse and Humber to trade along the East Coast of Britain and across to Europe.

## I William Carlile



For William Carlile, the story can be sketched via his mention on his wife, Mary Ann's, stone. Married in 1831, the family are to be found in Bondgate in 1841 then Millgate in 1851, where Mary Ann is a 'sailor's wife' at home with eight children, but William is absent. Following her death in 1859 William is recorded in 1861 as master of a 70-ton coasting sloop based in Goole. His second son used the oceans to travel the world, as his death is recorded in Mumbai, whilst William's death is noted in Wakefield.

Now that personal records are widely available online, it has become much easier to trace an individual's life story. If the brief glimpses of the lives of these mariners has whetted your appetite to find out about your own ancestors, resources at Selby Library or via Selby & District Family History Group are excellent starting points.



The "Mariners, Merchants and Monuments" project stemmed from the desire of Selby Town Council to promote a greater interest in, and use of, resources linked to Selby Cemetery. This would lead to an increase in understanding of how life was lived in Selby in the 19th century, and also encourage people to discover more about their own family histories.

Financial support came from National Lottery players and the Heritage Lottery Fund. Students from Selby High School used the cemetery as a stimulus for their own local history studies, and the work was supported by the Selby & District Family History Group.

The support of Selby Town Council, Selby High School, the Selby & District Family History Group, and the Heritage Lottery Fund is gratefully acknowledged. Further information about the project, online versions of this leaflet and other resource material can be found via [www.selbytowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.selbytowncouncil.gov.uk), [www.selbydistrictfamilyhistory.btck.co.uk](http://www.selbydistrictfamilyhistory.btck.co.uk) or [www.selby-high.org.uk](http://www.selby-high.org.uk)

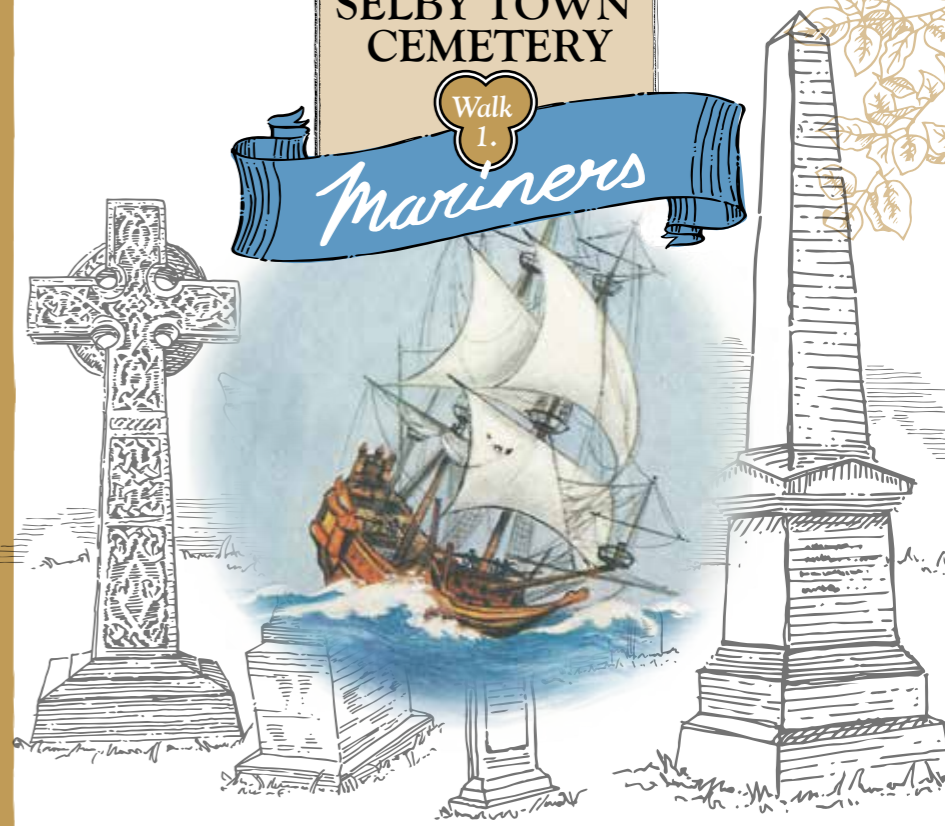


# Mariners Merchants and Monuments

SELBY TOWN CEMETERY

Walk 1.

Mariners



**A**lthough Selby is over 60 miles from the sea, for almost a thousand years Selby's trade depended on water-borne traffic. Ouse craft carried goods between Hull and the Continent up into the heart of Yorkshire, with other cargoes returning along the same route. As Selby was a central point along the journey, many people either worked in the shipbuilding industry, or went to sea themselves. Both shipbuilders and mariners are buried here, as well as those who unfortunately drowned.

Some graves of mariners bear the phrase 'Master Mariner'. This wasn't a boast, but the highest level of professional qualification possible. To be awarded that title, certified by the Board of Trade in London, a mariner had to demonstrate his understanding and knowledge in many circumstances.

This walk firstly considers shipbuilders, then looks at those who worked on the water. This means that the lettering on the map seems a little out of order.

## **A** The Ross Family

**L**ook to the left of the gates to see the Ross family grave. This shows how Selebians could use the transport possibilities of the river to visit all parts of the world, as Alfred Ross is recorded as having died in Panama. This headstone also marks the first burial in the cemetery, that of Julia Ross in 1858.



## **B** The Cochranes



**R**eturn to the path that is parallel to the hedge and on the right, before the pedestrian entrance, is the last resting place of Andrew Lewis Cochrane, one of several graves in the cemetery to the Cochrane family. The shipyard along Ousegate that bore the family name was the final one in Selby. The family brought the company to Selby from Beverley in 1898, remaining family-run until 1965, before finally closing in 1992. Cochrane received his OBE in the 1953 Coronation Honours list: the shipyard had produced many vessels for the Navy during World War 2.



# The Victorian Area of SELBY TOWN CEMETERY



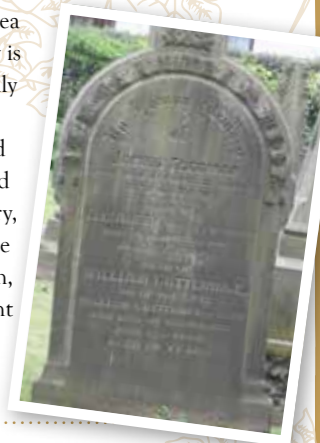
## **C** The Connell Family

**T**he banks of the Ouse saw many shipbuilding yards over the centuries. A little further along in a row slightly to the right of the path is one of several graves of members of the Connell family. Connell's shipyard was close to the junction of the Selby Canal and river. The company also had a dry dock as well as the contract to maintain the mechanisms and structures of Selby's two swing bridges.



## **D** The Gutteridge Family

**I**n the central area of the cemetery is a Gutteridge family grave. Samuel Gutteridge owned and ran a shipyard in the 19th century, much closer to the centre of the town, near to the current Westmill Foods building.



## **E** William Thompson Grace



**I**t is not only those who built ships who are buried in the graveyard, but also those who used vessels to make their fame and fortune. The grave of William Thompson Grace is notable on this front.

Grace's elegant headstone tells of his time aboard the 'Lord of the Isles', one of the famous tea clippers such as the

'Cutty Sark', racing from the Far East back to London with the new season's tea harvest, to reap large financial rewards. 'Lord of the Isles' was one of the first metal-hulled vessels and held records for rapid passages. Perhaps William was quite a sailor to have been a member of such a crack crew. Sadly he was lost overboard, and this stone is a memorial rather than marking the site where his body is buried. The headstone also records that his brother met a watery end, somewhat closer to home in the River Derwent. Drownings, from the Atlantic to the River Derwent, feature in the demise of several Selebians.

Messrs Matthewman, Broadley, & Shipston all suffered this sad fate...

## **F** Benjamin Matthewman

**T**he 1851 census shows Benjamin Matthewman to be a retired Master Mariner, aged 65, living at 'Cherry Orchards', Barlby Bank, with his blind wife Mary Ann. He had previously been listed as a yeoman, and must have been a man of some wealth as he was entitled to vote. On death his probate was 'under £450', perhaps £30,000 or so today.

