



FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like to find out more about Rathmell and the people who lived here in the 19th century, see *'Rathmell Roots: The story of a 19th Century Parish'*, Rosemary Rees and John Ketchell, 2023.

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HOLY TRINITY GRAVEYARD TRAIL

The graveyard trail is an introduction to the people who lived and worked in Rathmell during the 19th century. The trail will take you to a selection of the main gravestones commemorating men, women and children who were part of a lively, diverse and flourishing community 150 years ago. Gravestones, then as now, were expensive and almost two thirds of those buried here lie in unmarked graves.

1. Nancy and Margaret Hey (ANC-202)

Nancy and Margaret were the twin daughters of William and Grace Hey. The girls both died in 1843, when they were babies. William was an agricultural labourer with a wife and six surviving children to support, and so it is extremely unlikely the family could afford a gravestone. As this was the first burial in the graveyard, their gravestone was probably paid for by the church itself or a local benefactor.

2. Rebecca, Elizabeth and Charles Abbotson (ANC-41)

Charles was a successful and high earning landowner, surveyor and land agent. He died suddenly in Derbyshire in 1883 when he was 31 years old. His body was brought back to Rathmell to be buried with those of his infant daughters, Rebecca and Elizabeth.

3. Robert Mitton (ANC-39)

Robert was the eldest of four children. Their father Joseph worked as a coachman for the Geldard family (*see grave 11 below*). Robert died suddenly from spinal meningitis in 1877 when he was 10 years old. His parents were buried with him when they died in the early years of the 20th century.

4. Frances Lister (ANC-4)

Frances died from pneumonia in 1884 when she was 15 months old, and her father William was working as a gamekeeper on the Geldard Estate. In 1903 her parents and four siblings sailed for Canada where they settled in Manitoba.

5. Elizabeth and Richard Haythornthwaite (ANC-35)

Elizabeth and her husband Robert, who was a farmer, had four children. Elizabeth died in 1890, just eight days after their fourth child, a boy they called Richard, was born. Richard died from jaundice when he was 21 days old. Mother and son were buried together.

6. Sarah Hubbersty (ANC-22)

Sarah lived in the village parsonage with her sister Ann, who was married to Rathmell's vicar, Abel Chapman. Ann died in 1858, and Sarah stayed on to help manage life in the Parsonage, with its three boarders and two servants. She died in Manchester in 1876 and her body was brought back to Rathmell for burial.

7. Benjamin and Phoebe Parker (ANC-65, ANC-66)

Benjamin was a shoemaker and Phoebe, a baker. Together they ran a grocer's shop in the village. Phoebe died at home in 1895, and Benjamin the following year in the workhouse. They are buried alongside each other in unmarked graves.

8. James Mansergh (ANC-99)

James, trained as a Carpenter and wheelwright and he ran a successful business from the sawmill. He was involved in bringing Methodism to Rathmell, and his wife and children supported the growth and development of the Methodist Chapel. James died in 1886.

9. John Williamson (ANC-105)

John was the village schoolmaster. The school building was very damp and generally in such a poor condition that, in 1870, the vicar applied for a grant to help rebuilding. This was too late for John. He died from TB in 1869 when he was 25 years old.

10. George Holden (ANC- 124)

George was a successful wine and spirits merchant who lived with his wife Mary in Butterfield house. He was very rich when he died, aged 47, in 1887. Mary, a chronic alcoholic, died five months later and was buried in an unmarked grave.

11. John Geldard (ANC-132)

The Geldard family, living in Cattleside, owned a lot of land in and around Rathmell, providing tenancies and employment, as well as being involved in charitable work. John graduated from Cambridge University and worked as a lawyer. He and his wife Laura retired to Sussex, where he died from typhoid fever in 1893. His body was brought back to Rathmell for burial.

12. George and Ann Towler (ANC-139)

George and Dan were a multitasking couple. They ran the Cross Keys in, and Mary lived there with their children. George, however, alternated being an inn-keeper with running the family farm at Hollin Hall. They both lived to a good age for the 19th century; George was 75 and Ann 74 when they died.