

The Calvert butchers and the Naked Man

Robert Calvert and his wife Alice Craven worked alongside several butchers in the Shambles, slaughtering and selling produce 'in the same room'[CH]. Their eldest daughter Jane Calvert married Luke Ralph and their numerous descendants have populated Settle and local graveyards for generations. Their son William Calvert continued the business with his wife Margaret Hornby and, when they were old enough, with four of their six sons, Thomas Hornby Calvert, Robert Calvert, John Calvert and Henry Calvert. There are several reports of the Calverts' fine butchery, including the slaughter of one of William Carr's celebrated cows, 'Ruth', who weighed 58 Score, with a hide of 75lbs and yielded 11 stones of fat! [SC,CH] and, in 1821, Mr King's fat ox which weighed 30 stone per quarter and 264lbs tallow, recorded by diarist William Lodge Paley [WLP].

FAT Cow.—On Monday, February 9th, the celebrated Cow RUTH, the property of Wm. Carr, Esq. of Stackhouse, was killed by Mr. Calvert, in the Shambles. She weighed the enormous weight of 58 Score, her Hide weighed 75 lbs., and she yielded 11 Stones of Fat.

April 6.—A very fat ox fed by Mr. King, Austwick, was killed by Wm. Calvert, 30 stone per qr. and 264 lb. of tallow; I saw it alive.—Club meeting at

Above, beneath the arches, were the butcher's shops, kept by Robert and John Calvert, John Wilman, George Beardall, etc., where, at that period, the animals were slaughtered, and the meat sold in the same room. In those days, regulations for the safeguarding of the public well-being were conspicuous by their absence, but we got along very well without them, and



The Calverts rented their shop in the Shambles but owned land by Watery Lane and several properties on Kirkgate, including the 'necessaries' – earth closets. They lived in a cottage on the Market Place corner, now part of Boots Chemist, next to the Crown Inn. William also owned the Naked Man Inn run by tenants such as *Eli Harger*, *William Cork* and *John King*. In 1858, William placed an advert [SC] to let the Naked Man – the tenancy was taken over by *John Sanderson* on behalf of his daughter *Annie Sanderson* and her husband *James Twisleton*. William and Margery left a healthy estate when they died. Sons *John* and *Robert* [ph1], both successful butchers, cattle dealers and land owners, and confirmed bachelors, stayed in the cottage until they died, never letting a woman cross the threshold! Descendants describe that 'there are two beautiful waistcoats worn by Robert and John. They must have been very tiny. They always wore top hats and tailcoats when they went cattle buying and were remembered many years after their deaths by people in Upper Settle (then a poor part of town) to whom they slipped coins as they walked by.'[A]

TO INNKEEPERS AND OTHERS.
TO BE LET.
 And may be entered upon on the 12th day of May next all that old-established and well-accustomed
INN,
 CALLED THE
NAKED MAN,
 Situate in the Town of Settle, in the County of York, with the Garden, Stables, Shippens, and appurtenances thereto belonging, and now in the occupation of Mr. John King.
 This is one of the oldest Inns in the Town of Settle, where there are frequent Cattle Fairs, and a Market every Tuesday. The Inn is in the Market Place, has extensive frontage, and is the best adapted Inn in the Town for doing an extensive business. The New End is very well adapted for a
SHOP,
 And may be taken separately; it was lately occupied as a Grocer's Shop by Mr. Jones, who carried on a very extensive business.
 For particulars apply to Mr. WILLIAM CALVERT, Settle, the owner, who will receive applications until the 12th March, after which day the taker will be declared.

William and his descendants owned a pew at Giggleswick church, a sign of his wealth, and several of the family are buried in Giggleswick graveyard with a memorial stone. William and Margaret had a son, *William Craven Calvert*, who died an infant but was swiftly replaced by another son, given the same name, who became a draper. This *William Craven Calvert* also dabbled in innkeeping, running the Queen's Head pub in Halifax. His wife, *Jane Hall* is also remembered on the gravestone but was buried in Bradford, her hometown. (She actually died in 1861 but inscription mistakes happen on a tenth of gravestones!)

In memory of Robert Calvert of Settle who died July 10th 1833 aged 87 years. Also of Alice his wife who died April 8th 1823 aged 69 years. Also of William Calvert their son who died June 26th 1862 aged 76 years. Also of Margery his wife who died Dec'br 4th 1860 aged 77 years. Also of Thomas H Calvert their son who died Jan'y 12th 1852 aged 40 years. Also of William Craven Calvert their son who died March 3rd 1857 aged 35 years. Also of Jane his widow who died 1858 aged 35 years

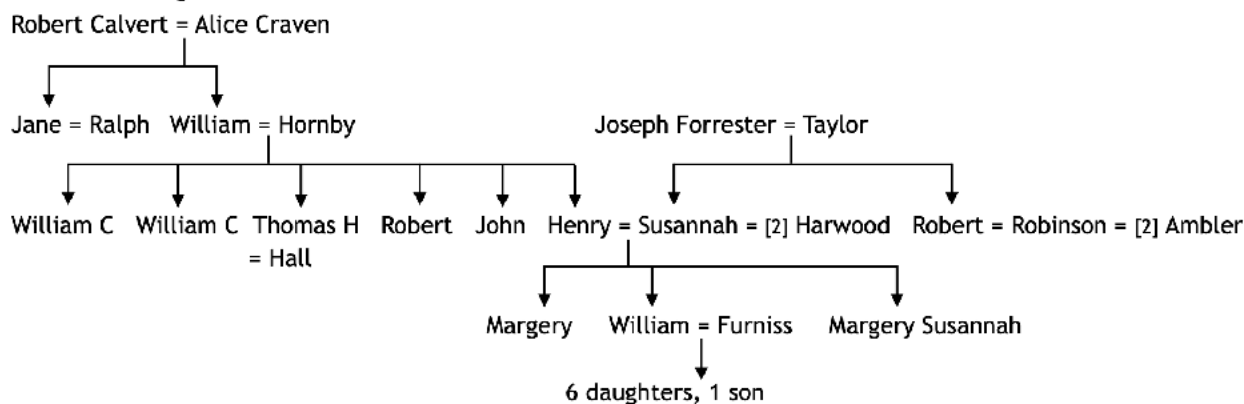
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The Calverts' next door neighbours were **Joseph Forrester**, a stationer, selling goods around the Craven district, his second wife **Susannah (Taylor) Forrester** and their only child, daughter **Susannah Forrester**. Joseph's first wife, **Ann Hayes**, died in September 1833 just a month before the death of their eldest child, 18 year old **Thomas Forrester**, presumably of a shared disease.

Calvert family



They were buried in unmarked graves in Giggleswick churchyard. Joseph and Ann's second son, **Robert Forrester**, was apprenticed to Settle's draper, **Thomas Walker**, before marrying local lass, **Susanna Robinson**, in 1846. They had two sons, **Joseph** and **Robert** who were still infants when it seems Robert decided family life wasn't for him. He packed his bags to board the ship *Corealanus* bound for New York, arriving in May 1851, after which records for him stop. Poor Susanna worked as a cook for the **Birkbeck family** at Anley while the infants lived with their Robinson grandparents. Tragically, the infants died within a fortnight of each other in August 1852, probably of the same disease again, aged 6 and 4. They were buried in the unmarked grave *Anc BX13*. Four years later Susanna gave birth to a daughter, **Mary Ann**, who was also brought up by her grandparents but also died, aged 10 and was hopefully buried with her brothers. In 1864 Susanna married Settle's successful ironmonger, **George Ambler**, and they had a son **Richard Ambler** to add to the eight from his first marriage. The Amblers had quite an interesting life!

Meanwhile William and Margery's youngest son, **Henry Calvert**, married Susannah Forrester in 1865. Descendants say, Robert and John's 'younger brother, Henry, lived with them and also worked as a butcher until he married Susannah Forrester. Robert and John didn't want Henry to get married; they didn't give him any money on his marriage, instead gave him the Naked Man which they then ran.' [A] Henry, like several other innkeepers also worked as an auctioneer. Conveniently, inns had the large meeting rooms needed for hosting auctions.

HENRY CALVERT,
AUCTIONEER & APPRAISER,
 NAKED MAN INN, SETTLE.
 A large room adjoining the Inn, for the convenience of parties wishing to remove Furniture &c. for sale.

ASSAULT.—Thomas Yates, a navy employed on the Settle and Carlisle extension line, was brought up in custody on Monday last before the Rev. H. J. Swale, and H. Christie, Esq., charged with having committed a violent and brutal assault on Mr. H. Calvert, the landlord of the Naked Man Inn, on Sunday last. The prisoner pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 2 months' imprisonment with hard labour. He was also charged with damaging Calvert's clothes, for which he was ordered to pay £1 and costs 18s. 6d., or in default 1 month's imprisonment.

The influx of workers for the building of the Settle to Carlisle railway will have brought extra trade to the Naked Man, however it brought a few problems too. In 1870 Henry suffered 'a violent and brutal attack' and had his clothes damaged by navy **Thomas Yates** [2]. The navy was sentenced to two months' imprisonment with hard labour plus costs for clothes.

Henry and Susannah had three children, **Margery**, **William** and **Margery Susannah**, whilst running the Naked Man. Eldest daughter Margery [ph2] died when she was just three, thought to be from contracting meningitis after a fall from Castleberg Rock.



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Henry died in 1880 of cirrhosis of the liver aged 53, which was not uncommon for innkeepers. Youngest daughter Margery Susannah was just seven. Widow Susannah took over Henry's business in style [LSA], investing in lands, businesses and properties in Ingleton and Settle areas. She sold land to the railway companies. She was a shrewd business woman, leaving the equivalent of over £1 million to son William when she died in 1915. Susannah would probably have turned in her grave if she knew that her son William managed to fritter most of it away during his lifetime.



Susannah [ph2] reacted to Henry's death by running the Naked Man with a 'rod of iron'. Drunkenness was not allowed, earning her reputation as the 'Terror of Settle Tradesmen'. She sent son William to Giggleswick School and he went on to study pharmacy in Edinburgh and London. She insisted that he become teetotal and sign the Temperance pledge.



In 1887 Susannah met and married a man brave enough to take her on – railway inspector John Harwood, a widower from Nottingham. Previously, John had been in Settle organising work for the Settle to Carlisle Railway. Because of his work they moved frequently but spent several years in Carlisle.

Susannah and Henry's daughter Margery Susannah died of scarlet fever, aged 20, in Carlisle. Descendants recall that husband John Harwood didn't tell Susannah about Margery's illness until it was too late and she was so angry that she left him. This is borne out by John's obituary in 1898; he retired in 1896 and moved to Sheffield to live with his two spinster daughters from his first marriage and left his whole estate to them, with no reference to Susannah[1]. Margery Susannah's body was brought back to Settle for burial in *Old grave C15*. Her uncles Robert and John are buried next to her in the unmarked *Old grave CX16*.



from this post he was promoted to that of cattle inspector to the outdoor goods manager's department, originally with his headquarters at Leeds, and after the opening of the Settle and Carlisle line in 1875, at Carlisle, until October, 1898, when, on retiring altogether, he removed his residence from Carlisle to Sheffield. Towards the end of October last he was presented by his North of England and South of Scotland friends with a purse of gold; and at the time of his demise arrangements were in progress for a further presentation to him from his old colleagues in the goods manager's department.

In loving memory of Margery Susannah daughter of Henry and Susannah Calvert of Settle died at Carlisle Sep 22nd 1893 aged 20 years. Blessed are the pure in heart.

After leaving John Harwood and spending some years with son William, Susannah retired back to Settle, in the original cottage. She disliked using the name Harwood – after donating funds for the building of the Primitive Methodist church on Duke Street, at the top of High Hill Grove, of which she was a member, she was remembered with a foundation stone

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inscribed 'Mrs Calvert'. Henry and Susannah were buried together in the AncC19 with a memorial stone. Unfortunately, over the years the cross has fallen but descendants [A] have a photo of the original memorial.

In loving memory of Henry Calvert of Settle born Feb 14th 1827, died July 14th 1880 and of Susannah Harwood born March 10th 1839 died April 25th 1913, C19

Henry and Susannah's grave is close to that of her parents Joseph and Susannah (Taylor) Forrester in grave C24. The detail of the inscription is now lost but the grave contains Joseph, Susannah, Henry and Susannah's eldest daughter Margery and ten year old 'granddaughter' Mary Ann Forrester, even though, technically, she was unrelated. The inscription is clearer on the image taken with RTI technology (honestly!).



Henry and Susannah's remaining son **William Calvert** [ph2] was only 11 when his father died and seems to have been a bit of an attention seeking child. After qualifying, William ran a shop in Slaithwaite, near Huddersfield and it was here that he met and, in 1903 [ph2] married **Mary Matilda Furniss**, the daughter of a respected gas engineer. William was 33 and Mary Matilda, aged 21, had worked as an infant school assistant. Descendants remember her as rather superior and that she avoided doing any housework, always leaving that to a housemaid. William's mum, Susanna, lived with them and descendants remember Susannah 'was a formidable person. Stout, well corseted, dressed in magnificent dresses, black trimmed with beads. She wore a fancy lace hat on top of her hair in the house. She had a maid called Rosie who was at her beck and call, did all the work, and slept in the same room on a small bed' [A].



W. CALVERT
(Member of the Pharmaceutical Society),
Pharmacist and
Photographic Chemist
KIRKGATE & MARKET PLACE, SETTLE

Dealer for Photographic Plates, Papers, Glass, Cameras, etc.
A complete & well-stocked Room is available for Photographic Customers.
Surgives, Hair, Nail, and Tooth Brushes, Combs, Tooth Powders, Pastes,
Nail Washes, Toilet Soaps, Creams and Vanilins, in stock all necessary
articles for the Edifice are in stock or promptly procured.



Nursery, Invalid, and Sick Room adjuncts a Specialty.
Patent Medicines at Town Prices
Prescriptions carefully dispensed with the purest ingredients
only, at reasonable prices.

In 1910 the Calvert's returned to Settle, with William, Mary Matilda and their growing family, which would eventually include six daughters and one son residing at the lavish number 3, The Terrace on Duke Street. William worked as a druggist and pharmacist in a small shop at the top of Kirkgate [LSA]. William [A, ph2] received a considerable inheritance after his mother's death in 1913 but retired two years later, aged 46, due to a bout of rheumatic fever and the pressure of work. He may not have had his parents' business sense, or just decided that life was for living as, over the years, he sold of most of the family properties to maintain his lifestyle and large family, and the housemaid, of course. He was the vicar's warden at Giggleswick Church and Convenor of the Committee to build the Memorial



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Chapel of Remembrance at Giggleswick Church. He was also a trustee of the Craven Savings Bank. As a gentleman of leisure William played golf, chess and cards with his friends, kept hens and trained gun dogs. William enjoyed fishing and shooting up at Malham Tarn. Meanwhile, Mary Matilda enjoyed being seen in the chauffeured Rolls Royce with one of the wealthiest people in town, **Carrie Delaney**, the daughter of the local quarry owner, **John Delaney**. Having spent his mother's fortune, in 1936 William sold the house at The Terrace and rented a semi-detached house near the sea at West Kirby. He eventually died of pneumonia in 1945, aged 75.



William and Mary Matilda had many grandchildren, most living in other parts of the country, with a variety of lifestyles. Of particular local interest, William and Mary Matilda's eldest daughter, **Margery (Midge) Calvert** provided another wonderful wedding photo on the occasion of her marriage to **Thomas Maudsley** at Stainforth Hall in 1925 [ph2]. *'Tom and Margery were devoted to each other; they discussed every aspect of running the farm and it was very much a partnership...Margery was a very big woman physically, and with an enormous presence. I can see her now, hitching up her skirt to warm her considerable backside against the ancient, cream, coal-fired Rayburn in the farmhouse kitchen. She was a very good organiser and excellent cook [A].*



The Maudsley's family account is provided separately but it's worth noting that Thomas was the man to donate Stainforth Bridge, part of his property, to the National Trust in 1931. The old bridge, *'one of the prettiest in Yorkshire'* was rumoured to have been built in the 16th century, used as a pack horse bridge on the York to Lancaster route [3,ph3]. The



Stainforth Bridge (Pack Horse), photograph by the Horner Studio. Horner Collection©NCBPT (CC-BY 4.0)

introduction of cars caused a significant increase in 'wear and tear' to the bridge, beyond Thomas' means and so he decided to donate the bridge to the National Trust.

Thomas and Margery had six children and were buried amidst the Maudsley section of Stainforth graveyard.

In loving memory of a devoted husband and father, Thomas Maudsley of Stainforth Hall, who died Aug 17th 1968, aged 74 years, and Margery, his wife, who died Oct 22nd 1976, aged 73 years.



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.

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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 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'.

Thanks to Mike Howarth for his help with the compilation of this account and to descendant Mary Robinson for her information, photos and her book 'UnSettling Influences: The Calverts 1688-2004' [A]

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SC, WLP, LSA – Settle Chronicle, the diaries of William Lodge Paley, Lambert's Settle Almanac with kind permission of the Museum of Craven Life

CH - with kind permission of the Craven Herald and Pioneer

ph1 – photo with kind permission of Paul Cochrane, ph2 – with thanks to descendant Mary Robinson, ph3 – Image 2022.1.17.12 from the Horner Photographic Studio Collection provided courtesy of the Museum of North Craven Life



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