

Thomas Stewart, Knaresborough farmer, a tragic tale

Thomas Stewart 1812 - 1885 and his wife **Nelly Cundall** arrived in Settle from Knaresborough just a few years after they were married in 1835. Thomas began working as a servant at Stackhouse Hall, and then for the *Birkbecks* at Ashfield. They lived at Rose Cottage next to the Ashfield estate both before and after the railway was built close to their front door.

Thomas won numerous awards at the North Ribblesdale Agricultural Show for his pigs, fruit and veg. On these occasions [1], innkeepers **Mrs (Henry) Ayrton** innkeeper of the Royal Oak and **Mrs (Thomas) Wetherell** at the Golden Lion also did well.

Thomas and Nellie had four daughters and a son but were predeceased by four of them. In 1861, daughter **Maria Stewart** worked as a 'nurse' for the second vicar, **Rev William Pierson** who, at that time, had a toddler **John Ernest Pierson** at the parsonage on Station Road. Maria died in 1870 aged 30. Daughter **Martha Stewart** died in 1866, aged 24. They both had photos taken at the Horner studios soon before they died, Martha on the left [ph1]. Martha is remembered on her's parents' stone (with an incorrect date) and her own stone.



Miss M Stuart and Miss Stewart, photograph by the Horner Studio. Horner Collection©NCBPT (CC-BY 4.0)

Daughter **Annie Eliza** advertised her dressmaking business in 1862 [5C], from 'New Road' now Station Road but died aged 34. **George** was just five when he died. Nelly died in 1876, followed by Thomas in 1884. After her father died, youngest daughter **Eleanor** emigrated to Canada and married Scot **Samuel Jamison** out there. Unfortunately she died 2 years later, but somehow, someone organised the inscription of her name on her parents' stone.



Settle Graveyard Project

B22 Maria Stewart, Born Sept 29th 1849, died August 6th 1870

B21 In memory of George Stewart born November 15th 1843, died Nov 12th 1849, Annie Eliza Stewart born Sep 6th 1836 died May 30th 1871, Martha Stewart died June 18th 1865, Maria Stewart died August 26th 1870

B20 In memory of Nelly Stewart died 14th December 1876 aged 67 years. Also of Thomas Stewart husband of the above who died February 9th 1885 aged 73 years. Also of Eleanor daughter of the above died at Collingwood Ontario Jan 15th 1890 At Rest

B18 Martha Stewart, Born Novbr 30th 1841, Died June 18th 1866



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. 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.

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Lancaster Gazette

ph1 – Image 2022.1.68.7 and Image 2022.1.68.19/20 from the Horner Photographic Studio Collection provided courtesy of the Museum of North Craven Life.

SC – Settle Chronicle, with the kind permission of the North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust



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