

## Thomas and Mary Wetherell, innkeepers at the Golden Lion

Thomas was born in 1801 in Osmotherly in the North Yorks Moors. He married **Mary Appleton** who dutifully gave birth to a large family of at least seven daughters and six sons. Tragically, five of them, including a pair of twins, died in infancy and eldest son, **Nathaniel Wetherell**, was just 24 when he died in 1852. Thomas began his working life as a grocer in Osmotherley but in the 1850s, perhaps as a fresh start after all those child deaths, the family went to Hawes. Thomas and Mary became innkeepers at the **White Hart** [ph1]. The family moved from Hawes to Settle just after the 1861 census. Thomas and Mary took over the **Golden Lion** from widow **Isabella Hartley**— she had run it for decades with her husband **Robert Hartley** but he died in 1830, aged 51. It was quite acceptable for widows to run inns as both Isabella and Mary demonstrated after Thomas died in 1865.



*In memory of Thomas Wetherell of Settle who died Oct 1st 1865 aged 64 years, B15*

The Lion was a long established coach house providing the main accommodation and transport systems in town. They had an extensive ‘wine list’ [ph2]. With the advent of the railways the Lion had to adapt, providing ‘omnibuses’, the horse driven variety, to collect passengers from every train [ph3].



Mary was a popular landlady [1]. *‘When we say that the refreshments are in the hands of Mrs Wetherell of the Lion Hotel, we are sure it would be quite unnecessary to say a word more about that department of the entertainment’* which probably sounds like a compliment!

Halifax, under the leadership of Mr G Robinson: *When we say that the refreshments are in the hands of Mrs Wetherell, of the Lion Hotel, we are sure it would be quite unnecessary to say a word more about that department of the entertainment.*

WETHERELL'S LION HOTEL, SETTLE.	
WINE LIST.	
PORT, per bottle,	5s., 6s., 7s., 8s., 10s.
SHERRY, ,,	5s., 6s., 7s., 8s.
CHAMPAGNE, quarts,	6s., 7s., 9s., 10s.
,, pints,	4s., 4s. 6d., 5s.
SPARKLING HOCK, quarts,	8s., pints, 4s.
SPARKLING MOSELLE, quarts,	8s., pints, 4s.
STILL HOCK, quarts,	8s., pints, 4s.
CLARET, quarts,	3s., 4s., 5s., 6s.
,, pints,	1s. 6d., 2s., 2s. 6d., 3s.

Mary also grew great peas and beans, regularly winning prizes in the local shows. After another ten years Mary retired and lived near her daughters in Todmorden and Bradford. She was 84 when she died and was buried with a grandson, **Thomas Rupert Dewhirst**, the son of daughter **Eliza (Wetherell) Dewhirst**, who was less than a month old when he died but was given a stunning memorial stone.

*Thomas Rupert Dewhirst, born Nov 5th 1879, died Dec 4th 1879. Also of Mary Wetherell, relict of Thomas Wetherell, late of Todmorden, born June 25th 1808, died Jan 16th 1893.*

Several of Thomas and Mary’s children several stayed in the hospitality trade. In 1858 Thomas and Mary’s daughter **Ann Elizabeth** married **Matthew Willan**, a draper in Hawes. Ann had a honeymoon baby, **James Wetherell Willan**. Matthew’s finances were taken into administration in 1860 and that seems to have been the final straw for Ann Elizabeth who moved back in



with her parents, taking little James with her. She spent the rest of her life separated from her husband who spent his life as a 'retired' or 'unemployed' draper, living with his mum and then boarding with a family in Hawes. This was a brave decision for Ann as women almost always depended on their husbands for income, but Ann was an incredibly strong woman, unafraid to go against society expectations. Why didn't she divorce him? From 1857 onwards, laws allowed divorce but it was really expensive and only heard at a court in London – so not for the average working class Yorkshire folk. It was also biased towards men. Husbands just had to prove their spouse had been involved in a '*criminal conversation*' whereas women had to prove a criminal conversation and also physical cruelty, bigamy or incest.

Independent Ann took the bull by the horns and ran several large hotels herself. Her first licence was at the White Hart Hotel in Todmorden [ph4], '*the leading hotel of Todmorden*' [3], now a Wetherspoons. Whilst at the White Hart Inn Ann had to deal with the usual drunks and fisticuffs. In 1883 she was taken to court by a pedantic police '*analyst*' who spent his life visiting inns to find any discrepancies in the strength of their drinks [4]. The headline was '*Alleged Sale of Under-proof whisky – Defeat of the Police*'. Ann's



**THE WHITE HART HOTEL, TODMORDEN.**—We understand that this leading hotel of our town has been let to Mrs. Willan, recently of the Golden Lion Hotel, Settle, and that she will shortly enter into possession. Considerable changes and improvements are being made to the hotel, internally and externally, to adapt it to the requirements of commercial gentlemen and the public.

**ALLEGED SALE OF UNDER-PROOF WHISKY.—**  
**DEFEAT OF THE POLICE.**—A summons was taken out against Mrs. Willan, landlady of the White Hart Hotel, Todmorden, for a breach of the act relating to the sale of adulterated articles of food.—

manager, Mr Fielden, had served the gentleman. The White Hart was again referred to as '*the principal hotel in the town.*' The case was dismissed with the judge casting doubt on the methods used and the analyst's approach. Ann's son, James Wetherell Willan, now a solicitor, married Martha Fielden – a relation of the bar manager?

In 1884 Ann moved to take over the George Hotel in Cullingworth, Bradford, not far from Haworth. In 1886 she was again taken to court over a brawl – Malachi Henry Ford, a commercial traveller and bankrupt from Sligo, Ireland had gone into debt so the bar manager, Mr James Bolt, took his coat away until he paid his dues [3]. A fight broke out and Malachi tried to claim £25 for assault plus the costs of his clothing. The case was dismissed with the manager being told to return the coat and the customer to pay his debts. One paper reported, '*the amusing action kept the people in Bradford County Court in boisterous good humour.*'[5] Ann described herself as a widow, which was far more socially acceptable than 'separated'.

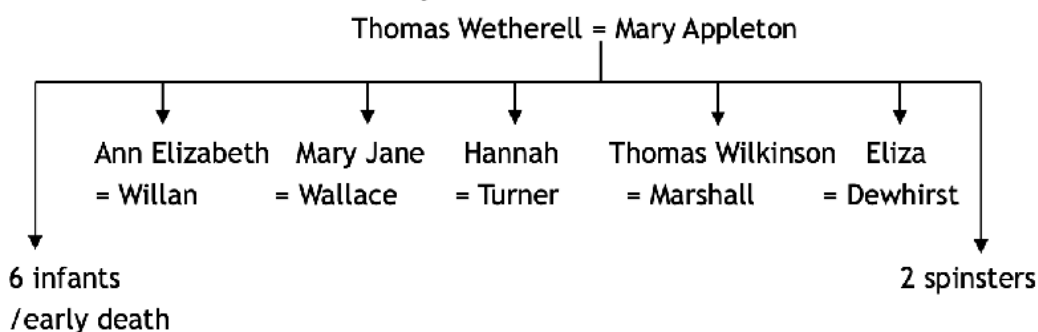
**EXTRAORDINARY ACTION FOR ASSAULT.**  
**BRADFORD COMMERCIAL TRAVELLER AND HIS DRINKS.**  
The plaintiff in this action, heard before Judge Gates, Q. C., at the Bradford County Court on Wednesday week, was Malachi Henry Ford, commercial traveller, St. Julie's Place, Bradford, and the defendants were Ann Elizabeth Willan, widow, landlady of the George Hotel, Bradford (formerly of the White Hart Hotel, Todmorden), and James Bolt, manager in her employ. The plaintiff claimed

From the George Hotel she moved to Liverpool to run the enormous Stork Hotel on Queen's Square right in the middle of town with sisters Charlotte Esther and Sarah Rebecca [ph5]. At the time of the 1891 census Ann and her sisters had wealthy visitors including several merchants and physicians. To look after them she had 21 servants: barmaids, chambermaids, barmaids, kitchenmaids, porters, bootmen etc. This was a massive business.



Queen's Square became the centre of Liverpool's gay culture in the 1960s, being opposite the theatres. In 1976 the Stork Hotel was destroyed as part of city centre renovations to make way for the new bus terminus. Progress!

### The Wetherells of Osmotherley



Ann retired to Whitby with sisters Eliza and spinster Sarah Rebecca. Ann died, aged 90! in 1927. Eliza had married a calico salesman, **William Dewhirst**, who died in 1893, aged 40, in Todmorden. It was their infant son who was buried with Mary (Appleton) Wetherell. Eliza ran a boarding house in Liverpool before retiring to Whitby. Sister **Charlotte Esther**, who had helped Ann run The Stork, went on to run her own hotel in the Market Place in Selby.

Thomas and Mary's daughter, **Hannah Wetherell**, married **Joseph Turner**, the son of **John Turner**, the hatter in the Market Place [1]. Joseph preferred inns to hatting, running the Crown Hotel, Church Street, Keighley. In 1894, Thomas and Mary's daughter, **Mary Jane Wetherell**, became the second wife of a painter and decorator, **John Wallace**. Mary Jane was 55 and John was 71. John ran a successful painting and decorating business in Bradford, employing up to 17 men and boys plus apprentices. They had seven years together before John passed away.

Giggleswick.—Recently, at the Parish Church, by the Rev. T. Mc.Intyre, Mr. Joseph Turner, chemist and druggist, Settle, to Miss Hannah Wetherell, third daughter of the late Mr. Thomas Wetherell, of the Red Lion Hotel, Settle.

Some people's lives never quite work out, as Thomas and Mary's only surviving son **Thomas Wilkinson Wetherell** discovered. After inheriting his father's estate, he joined the West Riding Police Force in 1867, aged 23, but resigned after four years. Soon after he married **Sarah Marshall** and they lived in Gainsborough with two sons. Thomas worked as a bankers clerk. Their younger son, another **Thomas Wilkinson Wetherell** died in 1882 aged just six. Thomas was only 45 when he died and his probate documentation says he left just £1 to Sarah. This can only mean one thing – Thomas had opened a chemist's business in Leeds but was declared bankrupt in 1886 just three years before he died. Poor old Thomas – and Sarah. Sarah lived with her remaining son, **Frank Marshall Wetherell**, a chief clerk and then supervisor of Leeds City Trams, until he married.

WETHERELL { Thomas Wilkinson.  
Personal Estate £1.



*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](http://dalescommunityarchives.org.uk), 'settle graveyard project'. The 'Old Settle' family tree on [ancestry.co.uk](http://ancestry.co.uk) includes the families buried in the graveyard. The project is ongoing and welcomes queries and information on [settleresearch@gmail.com](mailto: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.*

*Settle Graveyard Project*

*Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Lancaster Gazette, 2 – Lancaster Guardian, 3 – Todmorden Advertiser, 4 – Todmorden and District News, 5 – Leeds Times*

*ph1 – credited to the White Hart Hotel, Hawes, ph2,3 – with the kind permission of John Reid, ph4 – credited to the White Hart Hotel, Todmorden, ph5 – credited to the Liverpool Echo.*