

## James Hudson, life long gardener to Reverend Swale

In the 19th century many men and women made a decent living in the service of the wealthy landowners. If you worked hard and paid suitable respect to your employer it could be a job for life. Some of the more generous employers even left their employees a legacy or paid for a gravestone. James Hudson even got an award for the length of his service. However, he was a very unlucky man.

James was the second of at least 12 children born to **Joseph Hudson** and his wife **Dorothy Metcalfe**. The family came from Horton in Ribblesdale to find labouring work in Langcliffe. In December 1842, Joseph, with others including William Monk and **John Slinger** 'were behaving in such a riotous manner at the Spread Eagle, and proceeded to such an extremity that it became necessary to send for the constable.' [2] They were let off with the equivalent of a caution as they appeared to be sorry. They should have known better – Joseph was aged 60 and William Monk was 48. (William's daughter Margery Monk married Joseph's son Richard Hudson two years later.)

**RIOT AT SETTLE.**—John Monk, weaver, Giggleswick, John Handacre, wheelwright, and Joseph Hudson, labourer, both of the same place, together with John Slinger, a weaver, resident in Settle, were charged with riotous behaviour at the Spread

**Eagle Inn, at Settle, last Thursday night.** The prisoners, especially Monk, were behaving in such a riotous manner at the Spread Eagle, and proceeded to such an extremity that it became necessary to send for the constable. Mr. Seed attended, and after he had cleared the house, a stone was thrown at his head and rendered him insensible for 24 hours. The stone was not thrown by any of the prisoners. The Magistrates of Settle considered the charge of so serious a nature, that they bound the prisoners over to appear at the sessions. They were now before the Bench, and having considered to plead guilty to the charge, he was willing to believe they were sorry for what they had done, and under the circumstances he was willing that they should enter into their own recognizances to appear at any time when called on to receive judgment.—Mr. Pickering, who was retained for the defence, agreed, and the Bench adopted the suggestion.

In 1831 James Hudson married **Betty Musgrove** and they had three children.

**Reverend Hogarth John Swale** was the first incumbent at Holy Ascension church when it was consecrated in 1838. These were the days when vicars were usually wealthy men, mixing with the aristocracy. Hogarth's mother owned Langcliffe Hall and paid a third of the total cost of building of Settle's Holy Ascension church. By 1841 Hogarth had built Ingfield Hall (Falcon Manor) in Settle for his retirement – from Settle he was posted to Kensington and then the British Embassy in Paris before returning to Ingfield.



Hogarth had employed James Hudson as his 'gardener' by 1839. Houses didn't have domestic gardens as such; families kept pigs and wildfowl in back yards for a bit of extra food. Gardeners such as James worked in the grounds of the larger estates – think Capability Brown in Settle. Despite being in service to someone else, this was a lucrative occupation and several gardeners could afford gravestones, but not James.

In 1865, the Reverend Swale's eldest son, **John Lambert Swale**, had a wonderful 21st birthday at Ingfield, arrangements '*under the zealous direction of Mr James Hudson, gardener and ground bailiff.*' [5C] '*The union jack was seen*

**BIRTHDAY REJOICINGS.**—The 21st birthday of John Lambert Swale, Esq., eldest son of the Rev. H. I. Swale, and cornet in the 4th Hussars, was kept up by the retainers and tradesmen of the family, on Monday the 17th May, with suitable rejoicings. Early in the morning the union jack was seen floating from the highest pinnacle of Ingfield. In the evening a salute of three guns boomed across the valley from the battery on the summit of Castlebergh, and was replied to from Ingfield. A supper was provided at the latter place, where upwards of thirty of the tradesmen and servants of the family sat down to the excellent fare, after which the health of Mr. J. L. Swale was duly honoured and toasted, and suitable speeches were made by several of the company. The arrangements were made under the zealous direction of Mr. James Hudson, gardener and ground bailiff to the Rev. H. I. Swale.

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*floating from the highest pinnacle of Ingfield and a salute of three guns booms across the valley from the battery on the summit of Castleberg.*' What a celebration! Sadly John's life was to have a tragic end ten years later.

Later in 1865, James won an award at the North Ribblesdale Agricultural Show for *'the yearly male servant who has remained the greatest number of years in his present post'*, with 25 years service to the Reverend Swale as from the previous November [1]. James died seven years later, aged 63, still at Ingfield, so would have been employed with Reverend Swale for 33 years. Betty had died three years earlier and they were both buried in the Ancient Graveyard in an unmarked grave.

Tragically both James and Betty outlived all their three children. Son **Joseph** died, aged 8, in 1844 and is buried in the Ancient graveyard BX15 and **Susannah** died, aged 22, in 1866. In January 1868 daughter **Sarah** married **Thomas Paul Barker** [ph1], a solicitors clerk. Thomas' father was a rope maker at the 'rope walk' next to the Catholic Church in Upper Settle. Sarah died just six months later upon the birth of daughter **Elizabeth Emily Barker**. Thomas obviously felt unable to cope with bringing up his daughter. His parents had died and Sarah's parents were elderly and so little Elizabeth Emily was given to Upper Settle neighbours **Stephen** and **Mary (Horner) Robinson** to look after. Stephen and Mary didn't have children of their own and also looked after two other orphans. At the time of the following census Elizabeth Emily lived with an uncle (Barker) in Leeds. She later married **Alfred Dixon**, a warehouseman/grocer/farmhand in Bradford but they didn't have children. Thomas remarried and had four more daughters, also in Bradford.

Hopefully James, Betty and their two daughters are buried together with son Joseph in AncBX15.

On 22 August 1835 James' sister **Dorothy Hudson** married **John Knowles** who worked in the cotton mills. John was from a large Settle family who did more than their fair share of filling the Ancient graveyard. Just 6 months later, in February 1836, Dorothy died after giving birth to a son **Joseph**. Dorothy died before Holy Ascension graveyard opened so is buried in Giggleswick graveyard.

John had two further wives who gave him at least seven further children. His second wife **Mary Caswell** is buried at Holy Ascension in the unmarked grave EX17. Son **William** is buried in the infants' corner in grave EX28. Two infants, both called John, also died, one buried in EX12 and the other possibly in Langcliffe. During the 1850s, the Settle cotton industry subsided so John, third wife **Margaret Scholey** and children moved to Bolton where there was more work.

What of Dorothy's son Joseph? When dad John moved to Bolton, Joseph stayed in Settle living in the Shambles with his grandfather **Jeffrey Knowles**, a tailor. Joseph worked as a greengrocer and, in 1861, married **Jane Hardacre** who had been brought up by her aunt **Jane (Hardacre) Robinson** – Jane was the

Settle. The yearly male servant who has remained the greatest number of years in his present service, 1, James Hudson, Ingfield, Settle, 25 years last November in the service of the Rev. H. I. Swale, Ingfield; 2, Anthony



### Local

**FUNERAL OF A RIFLEMAN.**—On Sunday last, the members of the North Craven Rifle Corps followed to the grave the remains of their late comrade Private Joseph Knowles. The deceased had an accident some months ago with a kicking horse which he was driving. He was thrown against a projecting stone in a wall at the side of the road, and suffered from a severe injury of the spine. He has since gradually declined. The corpse was interred at Settle Church. On the way to the Church the band (of which deceased had been an active member) played "The Dead March." Although it was raining at the time, a large crowd of persons followed the funeral procession, and the Church was nearly filled during the reading of the Service. The volley firing over the grave was omitted.

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illegitimate daughter of **Mary Hardacre** who later married the wonderfully named **Thomas Turpin Houseman**, a Lancashire watchman. Joseph and Jane stayed in Settle and had three children. Joseph joined the very popular North Craven Rifle Corps. Unfortunately he had an accident with a horse which seems to have caused lasting damage and his eventual demise in March 1865, aged 29 [SC]. Joseph is buried in the Ancient graveyard in an unmarked grave and a large crowd followed the funeral procession '*although it was raining at the time*'. Jane brought up the three children with the help of her widowed aunt Jane Robinson. Jane Knowles and her aunt Jane Robinson are buried together in the unmarked grave *Old EX20*. Their children moved to Lancashire.

Some families just didn't have any luck.

The graveyard contains the graves of several servants who benefitted from their employers' generosity; **Susannah Constantine Robinson** of Fern Hill probably paid for the gravestone of her servant **Mary Maria Blundell**, **Henry Todd** worked as the gardener for the **Bolland family** at Town Head for 53 years and this is inscribed on his gravestone which is in the midst of those of his employers. **James Thomson** was the gardener and land steward for the **Birkbecks** for 61 years and has a fine gravestone at the Zion church. **James Whipp** worked as head gamekeeper for both the **Birkbecks** and **Reverend Swale**. **William Grime** was the groom to the Birkbecks and worked alongside servants **Mary Procter** and **Susannah Forrester** for many years. **Elias Dickenson** was the gardener for Thomas Clapham at the Old Hall at Stackhouse for around 30 years. Most incredibly **William Skirrow** and his wife **Martha Duxbury** were the life long butler and cook at the London residence of Yorkshire MP Walter Morrison and he left them an incredible £3000 each when he died. Walter's northern residence was the Malham Tarn estate and he also left his Malham Tarn land agent, **John Whittingdale Winskill**, the sum of £1000.



*This account has been compiled as part of the Settle Graveyard Project. The project has recorded gravestone inscriptions, updated church records and researched the lives of those buried. The 'Old Settle' family tree on [ancestry.co.uk](http://ancestry.co.uk) includes all the families buried in the graveyard. The project is ongoing, and always welcomes queries, information and family knowledge 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.*

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

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