

This is the unlikely tale of two illegitimate girls, both called Margaret. Both their mothers worked for John and Susannah Tatham at the Tatham's department store in Cheapside, Settle. The two Margarets had successful lives after marrying men, both called William Dawson. They even lived in almost adjacent properties, albeit years apart. You couldn't make it up!

Margaret Lund and William Dawson, tailor and ironmongers

Margaret Lund was born in Austwick in December 1863, the illegitimate daughter of **Agnes Lund** from Slaidburn and was brought up in Lawkland by her aunt **Alice (Lund) Simpson** and her husband **Robert Simpson**, a farmer. Mum Agnes never married and first moved to Settle during the 1860s to work in domestic service for **John and Susannah Tatham**, the Quakers who established the first and only department store in Settle, in Cheapside [ph2]. Tatham's was a successful business for decades. John Tatham died in 1873 but Susanna kept the business going for nearly 20 more years. Susanna died in 1893, aged 95, 'the oldest inhabitant of Settle' [LSA].



30. The oldest inhabitant of Settle passed away in the person of Mrs. Susanna Tatham, widow of the late Mr. John Tatham, at the age of 95.—Tea-party and Entertainment at the Wesleyan School, Langcliffe.

During the 1870s Agnes became the 'Chapel Keeper' of the old Methodist Chapel opposite the Folly [ph2]. The 'new' Methodist Chapel in Church Street was built in the 1890s so Agnes may have then been unemployed.

In 1885 Margaret married **William Dawson**, born in July 1858, the youngest child of **William Dawson** and **Agnes Johnson** in Dent near Sedbergh in the North Dales. He was born seven months after his father died, aged 43, in an asylum in Lancaster. His father must have had a sudden deterioration in the last couple of months of his life.

Agnes Dawson, her children and later grandchildren made a living farming and knitting – very quickly. Agnes was one of the 'terrible knitters of Dent' [ph1]. In nineteenth century Dent knitting was a constant activity for women, men and children to



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supplement their income. Dent knitters were known to be astoundingly quick and dexterous creating distinctive 'Fair Isle' patterns, each village having its own unique style. Children were sent to live with cottagers in Dent so they could learn the trade in an early kind of sweat shop. They were cajoled or even whipped to knit as quickly as possible. A museum in Dent is dedicated to the knitters and is worth a visit.

By the age of 12 William was working as a farmer's servant in the Ingleton Fells. By the time of the 1881 census, William was boarding in Howson's Yard, behind the Market Place, with widow **Margaret (Hoggarth) Wise**. William was working as a tailor, no doubt using his transferable knitting skills.

William and Margaret married in 1885 and set up his tailoring business in part of the Tatham Cheapside property. There must have been a good relationship between the Tathams and Agnes Lund. Susanna Tatham died in 1893 and so William and Agnes may have had to move out of the property. As luck would have it, in 1897 William bought a business from **Thomas Anderson Harvey [LSA]**, who died a year later. The business was in the property between the Naked Man and the Royal Oak [ph2]. Thomas had run an ironmongery shop in that building for decades.

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WISHES to thank his customers and the public generally for the patronage during the past 57 years, and begs to inform them that he has disposed of his business to **Mr. WM. DAWSON**, who will carry on the same in all its branches, and trusts that his successor will receive a continuance of the favour and support so long accorded to him at the same time feeling sure that Mr. Dawson will do his best to meet them.



At the time of the next census William worked as both a tailor and an ironmonger which is an unusual combination of skills, however ironmongery was to take over. William was at the right place at the right time as more and more people used the new 19th century technologies. William had whatever you needed to buy, hire or repair. Adverts tell us

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you could get bedsteads and wire mattresses, kitchen ranges, prams, lawn mowers, tools, all sorts of hardware, ropes, lino and oilcloths [LSA, ph4]. At one stage there were paraffin pumps outside so you could go along with a container to get some paraffin for your oil lamps etc. William became the sole agent for Jones and Bradbury sewing machines and Whirlwind Vacuum Cleaners. William also ran outdoor trade fairs [ph9]



Dawson Trade Fair 2 of 2, photograph by the Horner Studio. Horner Collection©NCBPT (CC-BY 4.0)

Obviously William did well. Records show that in 1924 William bought Well Cottage on High Street, between the King William and the Folly, already owning the four cottages on Well Hill and two more in Kirkgate. He owned a machinery shed on Bond Lane, next to the old slaughterhouses, now modern housing and gives his name to Dawson's Court behind the shop.

At the time of the 1901 census Margaret's mum Agnes lived with them but, sadly, was described as a 'visitor' rather than mother. Such was the shame of illegitimacy in those days. At the time of the 1911 census Agnes was back in Chapel Street. However, when Agnes died, aged 73 she was buried in the same grave as William and Margaret and included on the gravestone inscription.

In loving memory of William Dawson born 22nd June 1858 died 14th Feb 1932. And of Margaret his wife born 6th Dec 1863 died 5th Jan 1923. And of Bertie their son born 19th Dec 1885 died 30th March 1888. Also of Agnes Lund born 31st Oct 1840 died 22nd June 1914, Old A14



William left a huge estate worth nearly £1million in today's value. William and Margaret had four children, although son Bertie died an infant and they are buried with him. Son William Edwin Dawson continued the business as an 'ironmonger and agricultural engineer'. He is buried in the New graveyard with his second wife Agnes Ann Lord, daughter of coal merchant Charles John Lord. William Edwin's first wife Mary Jane (Jennie) Stephenson is also in the New graveyard. She worked as a servant for John Vincent Harger before marrying.

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In affectionate memory of Jennie beloved wife of William E Dawson entered into rest Nov 11 1929 aged 36 years. The Lord hath need of her. New C28

In loving memory of William Edwin Dawson who died August 31st 1947 aged 54 years. Also of Agnes Anne his wife who died February 23rd 1965 aged 63 years New G33



The business traded under William Dawson's successful name until 1954, many years after his death in 1932. Then the Settle and District Farmers Trading Society operated from the shop, promoting Silcock's cattle, pig and poultry foods using the barn behind for storage. Then in 1959/60 Dennis Austin took over, with the shop managed by *Norman Kilburn* (see Moore). Dennis' daughter and son-in-law, the Firths, took over afterwards.

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A Colourful
RANGE
of
HOUSE
WARES



Margaret Jenkinson and William Dawson, grocers

Margaret Jenkinson, born in Settle in November 1832, was one of two illegitimate daughters of Mary Jenkinson. Mary worked as a servant to John and Susanna Tatham on Cheapside at the time of the 1841 census whilst 8 year old Margaret and her 22 year old sister Sarah Jenkinson lived in Victoria Street in Upper Settle, weaving for a living.



At the time of following census returns the girls lived with Mary, who remained unmarried, in the Market Place very close to the Naked Man Inn and where the other William and Margaret Dawson later lived. They earned a living as confectioners, bread bakers, 'eating house keepers' and washerwomen. Mary died in 1868, aged 76 and is buried with her brother Charles Jenkinson, a wealthy farmer, and his wife Elizabeth King in the Giggleswick graveyard. They have a fine gravestone.



In loving remembrance of Charles Jenkinson of Giggleswick who died June 22nd 1866 aged 58 years, and of Elizabeth his beloved wife who died March 8th 1855 aged 39 years. Also of Mary Jenkinson sister of the above who died at Settle July 7th 1868 aged 75 years. "Our loss, though great, is their eternal gain." B7/73.

Brother Charles also has a brass memorial plaque dedicated to him inside the church erected by his nieces and nephews. Charles' son George Jenkinson, with the help of his wife and at least 11 children, was the innkeeper at the Black Horse in Giggleswick for over 40 years and this could help to explain Charles' fine gravestone [ph5]. The Jenkinsons took over from generations of the *Waller* family

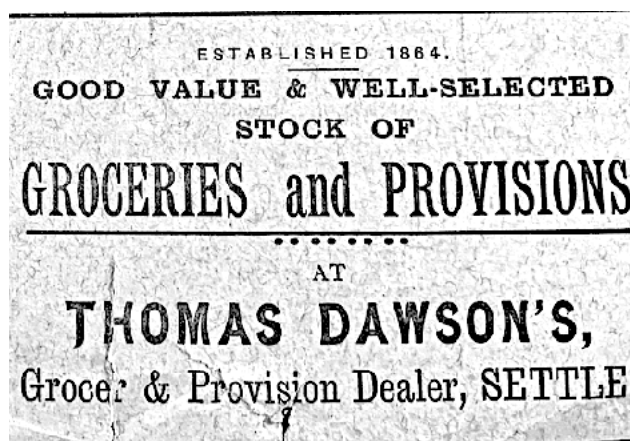


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Mary's eldest daughter **Sarah Jenkinson** remained a spinster and was buried in Giggleswick graveyard, hopefully with her mother.

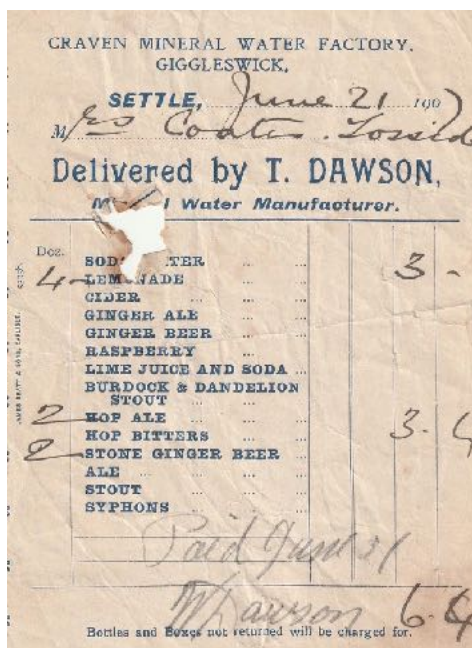
In 1865, 32 year old Margaret Jenkinson married 39 year old **William Dawson**. This less well known William was born in 1826 in Long Preston. It seems both his parents, **Thomas Dawson** and **Elizabeth Batty**, had died during his childhood. William moved to Settle and worked as a weaver for many years, boarding in Upper Settle with a widow **Elizabeth (Snell) Robinson**. Poor Elizabeth had six children with her husband **Stephen Robinson**, a carpenter, but five had died in childhood and Stephen died when she was 33, so William would have been a bit of company.

After their marriage, William and Margaret spent their whole lives working as grocers in a shop on the corner of Chapel Street and Duke Street [LSA]. They sold all the usual groceries including tea and coffee, plain and fancy biscuits, medications and sheep dip. Perhaps they learnt something from Margaret's mother's experience at the Tathams?



William died in 1892, aged 66. Margaret stayed in the same property which she later shared with **Elizabeth (Howarth) Overing**, the widow of draper **John Overing**. Margaret died in 1901, aged 69.

William and Margaret had one son, **Thomas [ph5]**, who continued the family business for a while before selling out to **Walter Marsden**, the son of **Thomas Marsden**, the methodist preacher in 1903. Thomas took his money and operated an aerated water manufactory [ph8]. He married **Lydia Nelson**, youngest daughter of shoemaker **Titus Nelson** and they had two sons. The family lived at Halsteads in Settle and then on Belle Hill in Giggleswick but moved to Leeds for their



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final years, probably near one of their two sons. Thomas and Lydia were brought back to Settle for burial with Thomas' parents. The family grave is immediately in front of that Lydia's parents grave in *Old D11*.



In loving memory of William Dawson who died May 7th 1892 aged 66 years. Also Margaret his wife died June 21st 1901 aged 69 years. Also Thomas their son died Jan 23rd 1921 aged 53 years. Also Lydia his wife died Feb 13th 1920 aged 54 years, Old C11

The officiator at the funerals of both William and Margaret was none other than **John Vincent Harger** who appointed **Jennie Stephenson**, the first wife of William Edwin Dawson, above, as a domestic servant. What a small world. This William left a far more modest estate worth in the region of £66,000 in today's value.



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.

Life stories 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'.

Illustrations kindly provided by Teresa Gordon. The life stories of people with italicised names have been researched as part of the graveyard project.

LSA - Lambert's Settle Almanac, with the kind permission of the North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust

ph1 – credited to the Dent Village and Heritage museum, ph2 – credited to the Back in Settle Facebook site, submitted by Mick Harrison, ph3 – submitted by Mike Howarth, ph4 – submitted by Ben Mackenzie, ph5 – with the kind permission of Paul Cochrane, ph6 – credited to family descendants via Ancestry.co.uk, username sjcaffrey, ph7 – photo kindly provided by John Reid, ph8 – credited to the Back in Settle Facebook site, submitted by Helen Atkinson and Don Armstrong, ph9 – Image 2022.1.26.15 from the Horner Photographic Studio Collection provided courtesy of the Museum of North Craven Life



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