

## William and Susannah Foster, butchers

William, born in 1837, was one of four sons and four daughters of **Richard Foster** and his wife **Jane Downham** of Stainforth. The family moved to Settle in 1840 and Richard made money where he could, as a huckster, labourer, farm labourer and a green grocer. At the time of the 1871 census the family lived at the Folly and it's possible Richard was working for the resident farmer, **John Metcalfe**. The family had also lived in Castle Hill and on Constitution Hill.

William trained to be a butcher and, in 1865, married **Susannah Barker**, a shoemaker's daughter from Grindleton. Susannah's much older sister **Jane Barker** had moved to Settle by 1861 so perhaps she introduced them to each other. Jane was an incredibly successful businesswoman with the help of two husbands, innkeeper **Phineas Butler** and builder **Lawrence Hodgson**, both of whom died soon after their marriages to Jane.

William and Susannah lived on and around High Street in Settle and had three sons and two daughters although two daughters, **Margaret Jane Foster** and **Jane Foster** died in infancy. William made a good living through his butchery business and invested in property. In 1873 he spent £370 at an auction to buy Well Hill cottage (next to the King William) from **Mary Baynes**, the wife of **Obadiah Baynes**, beerhouse keeper, to run as his butcher's shop and also dog kennels up Well Hill. He sold the property again in 1881 to **William Ralph** and the family moved to Chapel Square.

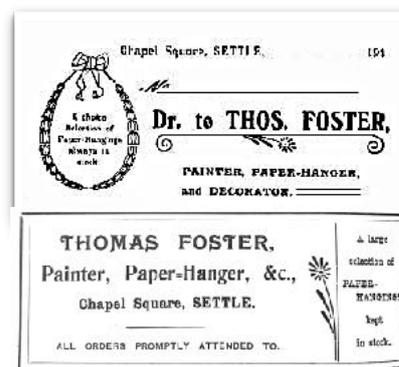
When William died in 1904 he left an estate worth over £300,000 in today's value. Susannah died in 1917. They are buried with Susannah's sister Jane (Barker) Hodgson.



*In Loving Memory of Jane widow of the late Lawrence Hodgson who died Jan 10th 1900 aged 83 years also of William Foster died Oct 28th 1904 aged 67 years also Susannah widow of William Foster died April 26th 1917 aged 78 years, Old D33*

In those days it was traditional for sons to continue the family business. Son **James Henry Foster** did just that, still living in Chapel Square with his wives — firstly **Sarah Jane Cokell**, then **Isabella (Greg) Flippence** (who had previously married **Henry James Flippence**, a groom and then **Sarah Ellen Bentham**). In 1902 James bought a house and a common lodging in Upper Settle house from the estate of James Twisleton, for £321. James Henry and his first wife are buried in the unmarked *Old HX24*. His second wife Isabella is buried with her first husband in the unmarked *OldGX62*. William and Susannah's son **Thomas Foster** stayed in Chapel Square but worked as a painter and decorator [ph1, LSA] with his wife **Mary Langton** and family. Thomas and Mary were buried in the unmarked *New JX18*. William and Susannah's daughter **Elizabeth Foster** married **Thomas Askew**, a grocer's manager and they lived in Upper Settle.

William and Susannah's son **William Foster** also trained to become a butcher. When he was 38, in February 1911, he married 21 year old **Thomasina Bennett** and brother-in-law **Thomas Askew** was a witness.



Marrings solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Pennington in the County of Lancaster								
No.	When Married	Name and Surname	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession	Residence at the time of Marriage	Witner's Name and Residence	Rank or Profession of Father
1911	Feb 11	William Foster	Full Bachelor	Bachelor	Butcher	Settle, Yorkshire	William Foster	Butcher
	1911	Thomasina Bennett	Full Spinster			Pennington		

Marrried in the Parish Church according to the rites and Ceremonies of the Church of England in the presence of us, also Present by us,

This Marriage was solemnized by us, in the presence of us,

William Foster  
Thomasina Bennett

Thos. Askew  
Frances Inaif Shaw

J. Page-Brierley  
Dixon

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Thomasina had an interesting background. She was the illegitimate daughter of **Annie Bennetts** from Cornwall who had been working in domestic service in Ulverston. Thomasina was born in the workhouse, the only provision for unmarried mums. Descendants believe that Thomasina's father was **Thomas Eaves** [ph2], a local agricultural labourer who emigrated to Minnesota, USA, just south of the Canadian border, soon afterwards. Out there Thomas married and had six daughters. When Thomasina was nine, mum Annie married a miner **Edward High Wilkinson** and they lived in Pennington just west of Ulverston.



Thomasina had probably come to Settle to work in domestic service. She was several months pregnant with baby **William Foster** when she married William. Soon after little William's birth the family emigrated to Alberta, Canada. Perhaps Thomasina wanted to be (relatively) closer to her biological father? William worked as a farmer and Thomasina had another two sons.

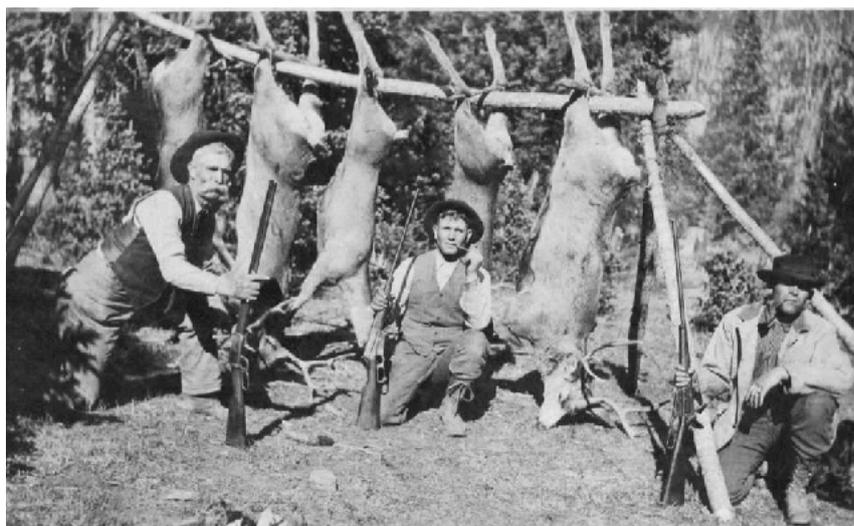
In 1918 everything went wrong. Thomasina had an affair with the man next door — **Henry Hedrick**. The result of this was that William [ph4] returned to Settle and spent the rest of his life living with brother James Henry Foster.



He enjoyed playing the clarinet in the orchestra of the Settle Amateur Operatic Society, in this case for the production of the Gondoliers in 1949 [ph5]. William was buried with James Henry and his first wife in the unmarked *Old HX24* when he died aged 86!



Thomasina's antics gets worse. Thomasina put William's three sons into foster homes when she started a new life with Henry. She told the sons that William had died in a mill accident. Thomasina was pregnant with another son, **Woodrow**, when William left and, even today, the family do not know who Woodrow's father was but are being encouraged to take a DNA test. Soon after William departed, Thomasina married Henry Hedrick. The four children of her new marriage were unaware of their half-siblings and it was not until 2008 that 21st century genealogy software provided the evidence to make them reluctantly aware of their existence. They also had to consider the possibility that Henry and Thomasina had an affair. Ouch! Naughty (or desperate) Thomasina.



Cyrus Henry Hedrick known as 'Hank' was born into a farming family in Indiana and was pictured with his father, **Jacob Hedrick**, a brother and the products of a day's work on the farm [ph2 - right]. In 1902 Hank had married **Edna Hutson** and they had a son, **Jewel Hedrick**, in 1905. Two years later Edna took Hank to the divorce courts who explained that Hank had '*offered the plaintiff such indignities as to render her condition intolerable as the wife of the defendant*'. Naughty Hank.

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offered the plaintiff such indignities as to render her condition intolerable as the wife of the defendant; that the plaintiff is now a resident of Pettis County, Mis-



They had been separated for over a year. With no more details recorded the court approved the divorce and even gave Edna the custody of their son.

Thomasina [ph2], who certainly looked like Thomas Eaves,

thought to be her father, was known as Dolly to her Canadian family. She was pictured with sons Woodrow and Henry Jacob. She died in 1943, aged 54, ten years after Hank.



Meanwhile, back in Settle, William Foster (Snr)'s siblings were quite happy to stay in their hometown. Sister **Hannah Foster** married **James Nelson**, a labourer from Barnoldswick and they are buried in the unmarked *Old DX42*. Brother **John Foster** was nominally a blacksmith but spent his life a bachelor, living on the breadline in the workhouse or in the common lodging houses of Upper Settle. It's interesting that none of his siblings looked after him. He was buried with Hannah and James Nelson in *Old DX42*. Sister **Mary Foster** married **Henry Towler**, a labourer. They were unlucky parents — they had ten children but five of them, **Mary, James, Richard, Tom** and **Hannah**, died as infants and are buried somewhere in the Ancient graveyard, hopefully together. Henry and Mary are buried in the unmarked grave *Old DX62* joined, much later, by their 85 year old son, **Jim Towler**. Brother **Henry Foster** became a baker living on Albert Hill with his wife **Mary Ann Fryer** and family. They are buried in the unmarked *Old AX51*.

Sister **Agnes Foster** married an 'excavation contractor', **Henry Wilson**, from Huddersfield. They became innkeepers of both the Crown Vaults and then the White Horse [LSA]. Henry retired in 1893 and was found 'dead in bed' seven years later [LSA]. Agnes and Henry are buried in *Old EX42* with Agnes' niece, **Agnes (Foster) Thompson**, the daughter of brother Henry Foster. Agnes and Henry's only child, **John Foster Wilson**, died just before his first birthday and was buried in the Ancient graveyard with a small stone.

→\* HENRY + WILSON, \*←  
**WHITE HORSE HOTEL,**  
 + SETTLE. +  
 CHOICE WINES AND SPIRITS.  
 Parties supplied at a few days' notice.  
 Horse & Trap for Hire. Good Stabling. Well-rired Beds.

19. Mr. Henry Wilson, aged 69 years, of Upper Settle was found dead in bed. The deceased had only been in poor state of health for some time.

*In memory of John Foster Wilson, infant son of Henry and Agnes Wilson who died February 18th 1866, C17*

When she was 18, William's sister **Elizabeth Foster** married **Joseph Young** and they had seven children. Joseph worked as a plasterer but, as with many other working class men, used his initiative to put food on the plate. In 1862 Joseph was found guilty of poaching at Neal's Ing along with **George Towler** and **John Gill** [1].

George Towler pleaded guilty and was placed in Wakefield house of correction for six weeks and fined £10 sureties for good behaviour for 12 months. Joseph Young and John Gill pleaded non-guilty and were imprisoned for two months and fined the same sureties for good behaviour. There wasn't much of a reduction of sanctions for pleading guilty!

Joseph also liked his drink. In 1854 he was fined 5 shillings for being drunk, fighting and 'disturbing the peaceful inhabitants of Upper Settle at an



**PETTY SURETIES.**—On Tuesday, the 16th ult., before Geo. Stansfeld, Esq., chairman, and a full bench of magistrates. George Towler, labourer, John Gill, joiner, and Jos. Young, plasterer, all of Settle, were charged on the information of John Langstreth, gamekeeper to Henry Robinson, Esq., with poaching on Neals Ing Estate, in the township of Stainforth, over which Mr. Robinson has the right of shooting. The defendant Towler pleaded guilty, and was committed to Wakefield House of Correction for six weeks, and at the expiration of that time to give sureties for good conduct for twelve months himself in £10 and another in a like sum.—The defendants Gill and Young, were ably defended by Mr. Ferns, of Leeds, Mr. H. Robinson appearing for the prosecution. After a long hearing the Bench convicted both defendants, and ordered them to be imprisoned for two months each and find sureties as in Towler's case for their good behaviour for twelve months. James Hind, of Kirkby

unreasonable hour on Sunday morning.' His fellow conspirators apologised and so avoided being named and were just fined [1].

**SETTLE PETTY SESSIONS, TUESDAY LAST.**— Joseph Young was charged with having been drunk, and tho' he brought witnesses to prove the contrary, the charge was proved to the satisfaction of the magistrate, who fined him 5s. and costs. He was one of a party who had been fighting and disturbing the peaceful inhabitants of Upper Settle, at an unseasonable hour on Sunday morning, 4th inst. Five others of his companions had been summoned as well as himself on the same charge of being drunk; but they deemed it prudent, we are told, to wait upon some one of the magistrates personally, and offer an apology. They were only forgiven, however, on payment of the usual fine and costs. Their object in taking the course they did, we presume, was to avoid publicity as much as possible, and we, therefore, refrain from mentioning their names.

Simpson for about a month. Several witnesses were called, who stated that they saw the prisoner dragging his wife in the street by the hair of the head, and who also saw the prisoner kick Mrs. Towler. On the prisoner being called upon for his defence he said he was drunk and did not know what he was doing when the alleged offences were committed. The prisoner's wife was called at the request of the Bench, and in answer to their inquiries she said the prisoner was generally a good husband, except when under the influence of drink. The Chairman said these were very aggravated assaults, and could not be looked over. The sentence of the court was in each case that the prisoner should be committed for a period of one month with hard labour to the Wakefield House of Correction. The Chairman further remarked that he trusted this sentence would be a warning to the prisoner, and strongly advised him to abstain from drink altogether.

On 5th January 1866, Joseph had become drunk and had a fight with Elizabeth on the street. He beat her and pulled her hair and then started attacking a 68 year old concerned neighbour, **Ann Towler**, when she tried to intervene [1]. When questioned, Elizabeth charitably said that he was '*generally a good husband except when under the influence of drink*' — some things never change. Joseph was taken to Wakefield House of Correction for a month with hard labour [1]. Poor old Elizabeth. Joseph didn't heed the magistrates' warning to abstain from alcohol — in 1884 he was fined 10s plus 8s 6d costs for being drunk in the Market Place. Perhaps Joseph's previous record was reflected in the increased fine.

Joseph and Elizabeth died within a year of each other, both in their 60s. Elizabeth is buried in the unmarked *Old DX40* with her son **Thomas Young** and wife. Joseph is buried in the adjacent grave *Old DX41* with Elizabeth's brother John, sister Hannah and her husband James Nelson. These graves are directly in front of those of Henry and Agnes Wilson.

As if inspired by brother-in-law Joseph Young, Richard and Jane's youngest son **Barnabas Preston Foster**, a labourer and hawker, also got himself into quite a bit of trouble.

In 1865, when he was 15, Barnabas was caught poaching conies (rabbits) with **James Haining** and **Thomas Ralph** on the evidence of **William Grime**. Barnabus and James were let off after assurances of better behaviour from their parents and costs. On 15

November 1871 Barnabas married **Clara Elizabeth Hornby**, a domestic servant known as Elizabeth, who had been working for **Michael Corry**, an innkeeper in Giggleswick. Just a week after their wedding Elizabeth was in court accused of stealing £13, a pillowcase, candles and a glass measure from the innkeeper [2] in what was described as an '*unpleasant interruption of a honeymoon*'. A box containing the items was found in her father's house in Arnside where Barnabas and Elizabeth were on honeymoon. Incredibly, despite this seemingly incontrovertible evidence, the Bench dismissed the case '*and the prisoner was therefore set at liberty to spend the remainder of her honeymoon outside the prison cell.*'

**UNPLEASANT INTERRUPTION OF A HONEYMOON.**  
— Elizabeth Foster, wife of Barnabas Foster, of Settle, to whom she has only been married a week, was on Thursday brought up in custody at Settle, before Mr J. Birkbeck and Mr C. Ingleby, charged with having stolen a pillow case, two composite candles, and one glass measure, the property of Mr Michael Corry, an innkeeper residing at Giggleswick. It appeared that prisoner had been in the prosecutor's service a month previous to her marriage, which took place on the 15th inst. Soon after that day the prosecutor missed

Bench decided to dismiss the case, and the prisoner was therefore set at liberty to spend the remainder of her honeymoon outside the prison cell.

After this inauspicious start, things continued to go downhill. A year later Barnabas was brought to court for assaulting his wife. The papers said that, as they were but recently married, '*they have not lived together to enjoy that felicity which the hymenial knot is supposed to engender, the complainant having been on several occasions subject to ill usage by her husband*' [1]. Hymenial knot?? What an expression! It

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was all over money and the Bench suggested they live apart. Barnabas was fined and ordered to pay sureties. Clara Elizabeth disappears from records after that, hopefully for innocent reasons.

In 1873 Barnabas was caught trespassing again, this time with **Thomas Marsden** on the grounds of **John Winskill** and of **John Preston** at Mearbeck on the evidence of gamekeeper **Joseph Whipp**. They were both fined. In August 1874 the police received numerous complaints of persons loitering on Settle bridge on Sundays. In a 'caution to loungers on the bridge', on Sunday 13 August Barnabas was one of 24 people fined for causing and obstruction on the highway. For some reason Barnabas was fined more than the others, having to cough up 10 shillings plus another 8 shillings costs [1]. At the same hearing Joseph Young (above) appeared on a charge of drunkenness (again) but was let off on this occasion for lack of evidence.

*Trespass.*—**Barnabas Foster**, and **Thomas Marsden**, both residing at Settle, were charged, on the information of **Joseph Whipp**, gamekeeper, with having, on Sunday last, trespassed with a dog in pursuit of game on land belonging to **Mr. John Linskill**. **Marsden** pleaded guilty. **Foster**, however, denied having been on the lands in question, and called evidence to support it. The defendants were also charged with having committed a similar offence on lands occupied by **Mr. Preston**, of Mearbeck. Both defendants pleaded guilty to this latter charge, and the Bench fined them in each case £1 and costs, 8s. 6d., or in default two months imprisonment.

**H. Christie, Esqrs.**—**Barnabas Foster**, a laborer, residing at Settle, was brought up in custody, charged with having assaulted his wife on Sunday last. The parties, who have been but recently married, it appears, have not lived together to enjoy that felicity which the hymenial knot is supposed to engender, the complainant having been on several occasions subject to illusage by her husband. **Mr. H. D. Robinson** appeared for de-

and **H. Christie, Esqrs.**—*Caution to Loungers on the Bridge*: Numerous complaints having of late been received by the police of persons loitering on the bridge on Sundays, to the great annoyance and inconvenience of persons passing along the road, it was determined, if possible, to put a stop to the practice, and accordingly, 24 summonses were issued against persons found congregated together on the bridge on Sunday evening, the 12th ult., thereby causing an obstruction on the footpath, and on the highway. The

In 1875, Barnabas married **Jane Anne Hardacre**, the daughter of a Long Preston wheelwright and they had five sons. Perhaps a good woman marked the end of Barnabus' antics? Well, not quite.

In 1878 Barnabas took **William Nicholson** to court for assaulting him. The magistrates decided that, as he had only injured his knee it was only a frivolous case and so dismissed it [1]. Finally, in May 1884 Barnabas was fined for 'acting as a pedlar at Hellifield without having obtained the necessary certificate' after selling potted plants. According to the law, pedlars needed a certificate to sell pots, but not plants. Barnabas' lawyers argued he was only charging for the plants and not the pots and so he got away without being fined. Clever huh?

**ALLEGED ASSAULT.**—At the Settle Petty Sessions on Wednesday, before **H. Christie**, and **J. Birkbeck, jun., Esqrs.**, **William Nicholson** was charged with assaulting **Barnabas Foster** on the evening of the 12th inst., in Settle. The magistrates however, in consideration of the defendant having injured his knee, and as the assault was only a frivolous one dismissed the case.

Barnabus and Jane Anne were buried in the unmarked *Old GX63*. Their sons **Richard Foster** and **Downham Foster** and their wives are buried in unmarked graves in *New HX32, FX40*. Their son **Walter Alfred Foster** ran a barber's shop next to Christopher Graham and opposite the Royal Oak for ten years before moving to Southport [ph3].



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### Inns of 19th century Settle

NI - New Inn on what was then New Road, now Station Road

JA - Joiner's Arms, later Commercial (Temperance) Inn

GL - Golden Lion, as now, previously on Cheapside

SE - Spread Eagle Inn on Kirkgate

CV - Crown Inn/Vaults

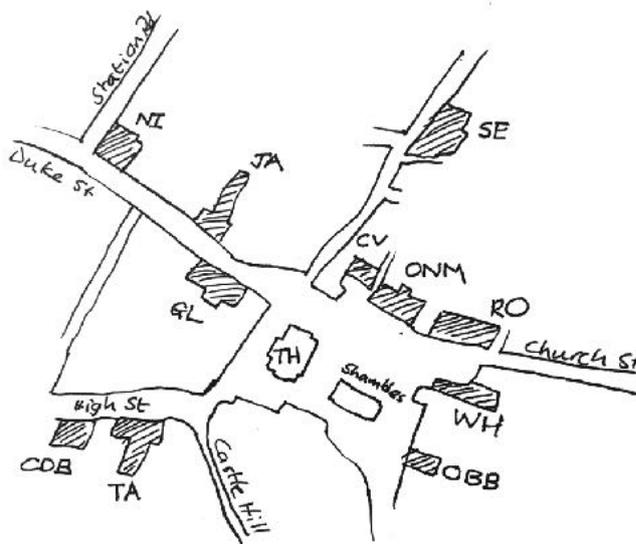
ONM, RO -(Old) Naked Man and Royal Oak, as now

WH - White Horse

OBB - Obadiah Bayne's Beerhouse - the tiny house in the row

TA - Talbot Arms, as now

CDB - Charles Duckett's beerhouse, now the King William guesthouse.



*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.*

*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](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'.*

*Thanks to Pam Stigsen, a descendant of William and Thomasina for her help in the compilation of this account. Illustration kindly provided by Teresa Gordon.*

*Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Lancaster Gazette, 2 – Shields Daily Gazette*

*ph1 – photo kindly provided by John Reid, ph2 – credited to descendants of the family via Ancestry.co.uk, username pennyhedrick, ph3 – credited to the Back in Settle Facebook site from the Ben Mackenzie collection, ph4 – kindly provided by descendant Pam Stigsen via the back in Settle Facebook site, ph5 – kindly provided by John Reid*

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