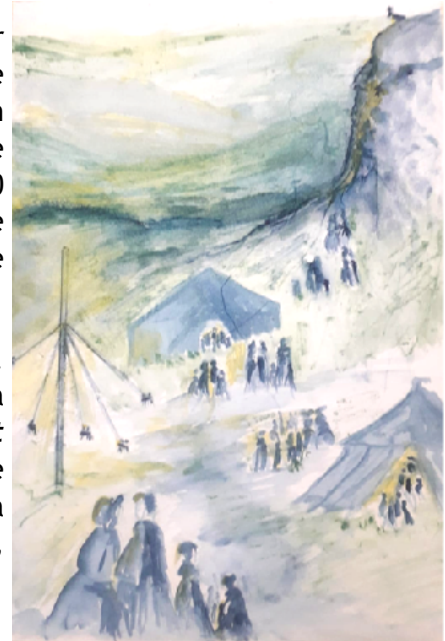


PC William Lindsay

William Lindsay, born in 1827 in Ingleton, was the eldest son of a shoemaker Thomas Lindsay. William's mother, Margaret (Melbourne) Lindsay, died when he was four. William started working life as a servant at Egton on the Barrow Peninsula. While he was there he met and married Ann Metcalfe and they had three sons and three daughters.

William may not have enjoyed labouring for his boss Mr Theakston in Ulverston. As soon as the West Yorkshire Constabulary was formed in 1856 William, being a tall man (with dark brown hair), signed up to be a police constable. He was assigned to the Settle area where he stayed for nearly 20 years. The family lived on Tams Street in Giggleswick. When he signed up, William said he had previously worked as a constable in Manchester for three years.

William's induction was not as smooth as it could have been. For some reason *Henry Snell*, a Settle tailor, had bought a ship's figure-head from Barrow and it was stored in *Robert Garner's* barn before fixing to Castleberg Rock which, at the time, housed an leisure park. Locals alerted William to 'a stranger' in the barn who promptly went to reprehend him, only to find he was the butt of a joke [ph2].



When the police force came into being, Constable Lindsay lived at Giggleswick, and on one occasion he was informed that a desperate character was hiding on a hay-mow where Settle Post Office now stands. It seems that Henry Snell had bought a ship's figure-head at Barrow which represented some great warrior, and for convenience it was put into the barn previous to its being bolted into Castleberg Rock.

Armed with dark lantern and truncheon our Constable went to the place and ordered the miscreant (whose head only was visible) to "come down," and as he took no notice a ladder was brought in and our hero ascended in the dim light saying "I've met with stupid beggars like you before and I shall pull you down," at the same time quieting him with a blow on the head which resounding in a manner unlike that of the human skull, provoking roars of laughter from the young dogs who had laid the information and formed an admiring audience.



Soon afterwards, in 1858, William met Henry Snell again. William was dealing with some 'little boys playing marbles in the street' near Henry Snell's house.

William 'charged Snell with profane swearing and shaking his fist in his face'. Henry was an influential man in the town and so no witnesses would give evidence against him and the case was dismissed [SC]. (Rest assured, Henry was found guilty of several much more severe offences!)

In November 1861 William was required to give evidence in a court case in which *Ellen Duckett* took the Midland Railway

P. C. W. Lindsay v. Snell. This complaint was for assault and obstruction in his duty, and arose out of the Policeman disturbing some little boys playing at marbles in the street near Snell's house. Lindsay charged Snell with profane swearing, and shaking his fist in his face. But produced no corroborative testimony altho' there were numbers present. Snell denied it in toto and produced two witnesses who proved that not an oath was sworn nor any attempt to strike made. Case consequently dismissed.

to court for 'carelessness and negligence in the management of the railway'. She had a fall and broke her leg because, she claimed, the station was not lit properly. William was one of the witnesses stating the platforms had not been lit. Ellen received £25 compensation from the railway.

DUCKETT v. THE MIDLAND RAILWAY COMPANY.
(SPECIAL JURY)

Mr. OVEREND, Q.C., and Mr. JONES were for the plaintiff; Mr. TEMPLE, Q.C., and Mr. KEMPLAY for the defendants. In this case Mrs. Ellen Duckett was the plaintiff, a dress-maker residing at Settle, and about fifty years of age. She had frequently travelled on the Midland Railway, and on Monday, the 25th of November last, she was at Skipton. She arrived at Settle from Skipton at eight o'clock in the evening. It was dark and rainy, and the wind was very

However, a year later the case came up in court again. William was accused of perjury along with *Thomas Leeming* and *Joseph Harrison Oddie Wilson*. Evidence emerged that Joseph Harrison Oddie Wilson was not anywhere near Settle on the evening in question so had clearly given false evidence. He was imprisoned for 12 months for perjury but Thomas Leeming and William had cases against them dropped. Phew.

PERJURY AT YORK ASSIZES.

Joseph Harrison Oddie Wilson, of Rathmell, was brought up in custody, and charged with having committed perjury on giving evidence in the trial of the cause *Duckett v. the Midland Railway Company*, at the last York assizes. Thomas Leeming, of Settle, and William Lindsay, police constable, of Giggleswick, who were also witnesses in the same cause, appeared in answer to summonses charging them with the same offence.

Newspaper reports suggest the majority of William's work involved petty crimes such as drunken behaviour, abuse of drinking laws and pranks [1]. John James Hardacre and his friends were found guilty and fined £2 of putting gunpowder under Mrs Metcalf's door on Belle Hill and then igniting it!

In 1873, aged 46, William retired and took the

Giggleswick. The defendant, it appeared, who was in company with other boys, had on the night of the 30th ult., put a quantity of gunpowder under the door of complainants house and ignited it, causing much alarm to Mrs. Metcalf and her family, besides doing damage to the door. Mrs. Metcalf stated that she had had



family to Bradford. He worked as a farmer and inn landlord before retiring. Son Richard Metcalfe Lindsay died in 1888, aged just 26, and was the first burial in a grave at Utley cemetery in Keighley with a fantastic stone. The engraving was carved after William's death in 1910 when he was 83! and that's probably when the stone was erected too.



Richard Metcalfe Lindsay, son of William and Ann of Lane End, Oakworth, who died April 15th 1888, aged 26 years. Also of Ann, wife of the above William Lindsay, born at Ulverston, Dec 14th 1825, died October 27th 1904, aged 78 years. Also of the above William Lindsay, born November 5th 1826, died December 27th 1910. Also Margaret Ann Turner, daughter of the above William and Ann Lindsay who died March 22nd 1940, aged 72 years.

Sons Henry and Thomas both became police constables and had families of their own. Thomas worked in London and Henry worked in Settle during the 1890s. After suffering assault by Robert Ralph [2] he was posted to Keighley. Henry and his wife Martha Hannah

DRUNK AND DISORDERLY.—John Waite, of Langcliffe, was fined 5s. and 5s. 6d. costs for being drunk and disorderly in Settle on the 6th inst.—Robert Ralph, of Settle, was charged with committing a like offence at Settle, on the 14th inst., for which he was fined 5s. and 5s. 6d. costs. He was also charged with assaulting P.C. Lindsay at the same time and place, and for this offence he was fined 5s. and 3s. 6d. costs.

Slinger had one son, another **Richard Metcalfe Lindsay**. Richard [ph1] worked as a weaver for the Rainhall Manufacturing Company in Barnoldswick. In 1914 Richard married **Ann Mitchell** and they had a son, **Morris Mitchell**, a year later. During the war Richard was called up to the Prince of Wales' West Yorkshire Regiment in April 1917 and on 27 May 1918 was reported missing. It was two months before the army sent official confirmation that he was presumed dead. Poor Ann. Richard's father had died in Menston asylum in 1905, aged 46. Richard's mum remarried.



William and Ann's daughter **Elizabeth Lindsay** worked in domestic service before marrying a coal miner **William Holden** aged 41. At the time of the 1871 census she worked for Mrs Hargreaves who ran a school in Bolton. One of the students at the school was **Charlotte Robinson** from Settle, who was later appointed to serve Queen Victoria as a 'Home Art Decorator'. Coincidentally William Lindsay's sister **Margaret** had worked as a servant to Charlotte's parents, **Henry** and **Epey Robinson** in Settle at the time of the 1851 census.

William and Ann's daughter **Margaret Ann Lindsay** married **William Turner**, another miner, when she was 49. She adopted a daughter, **Emily Mary**, when she was 38. In 1893, William and Ann's 29 year old daughter **Agnes Lindsay** married **Japheth Whiteley** who worked in the woollen mills. Unfortunately things didn't go well. Within two years the newspaper reported that Japheth '*frequently assaulted his wife*' and was fined 5 shillings. Agnes had asked for a separation order (which would mean she could live apart from him but still receive an income from him) but it was refused [3]. A further report in 1904 indicated Agnes had been given a separation order in 1897 but since then Japheth had refused to pay her any maintenance. What a horrible man. He was imprisoned for three months and Agnes just had to manage earning some money from weaving [4]. Agnes died in 1919, aged just 55, in Halifax. At the time of the 1911 census Japheth lived in Bradford with a young female servant. He died in 1928, aged 60.

At Bradford, on Wednesday, **Japheth Whiteley**, of Town End, Great Horton, who, it was stated, had only worked about five months during the past year-and-a-half, and had frequently assaulted his wife, was fined 5s. and costs, and was bound over to keep the peace. But the Bench refused a separation order.

TO MATRIMONIAL ARREARS—£90.

A Keighley Woman's Complaint.

At the Keighley West Riding Police Court, to-day, **Japheth Whiteley**, woolworker, of Bradford, was brought up in custody at the instance of his wife, **Agnes**, in respect of maintenance arrears amounting to £90 10s.

Mrs. Whiteley said she was granted a separation in 1897, but had never received a penny from her husband.

Prisoner said that after the order was made his wife said she would not trouble him for any money if he gave her the furniture. He did so, and he would never pay her a farthing as long as he lived.

The Bench committed him to prison for three months.



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. 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 settlerearch@gmail.com. Latest news and events are on the Facebook page 'Settle Graveyard Project'. Illustrations kindly provided by Teresa Gordon

Settle Graveyard Project

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Lancaster Guardian, 2 – Lancaster Standard, 3 – Leeds Times, 4 – Bradford Daily Telegraph

ph1 – credited to Craven's Part in the Great War, ph2 – with thanks to Giggleswick Church Archives.

SC – Settle Chronicle with the kind permission of the Museum of North Craven Life,