

## Samuel Hodgson, the constable and the cabinet maker

Samuel was born on 30 November 1801 in Heysham, near Morecambe. He was the fourth of seven children of grocer **Samuel Thomas Hodgson** and his wife **Betty Overend**. By 1828 he had moved to Settle and married **Mary Metcalfe**. Over the next 12 years Mary had five daughters and one son, **Samuel**.

At the time of the 1841 census the Hodgsons lived in Kirkgate and Samuel worked as an 'ostler' (tending horses at a hostelry), possibly at the Spread Eagle coaching inn. By the time of the 1851 census they were still in Kirkgate but Samuel was a police constable and had a prisoner living with them. **James Brown**, a railway labourer from Belfast, was awaiting his trial (and conviction) for stealing boots in Settle and was sentenced to three months imprisonment.

Samuel Hodgson	Head	Age 40		Constable
Mary Hodgson	Wife	46	52	Wife employed in household
Ellen do	Daughter	16	21	Handloom Cotton Weaver
Mary do	Daughter	14	19	Carpenter
Margaret do	Daughter	12	17	Handloom Cotton Weaver
Sarah do	Daughter	10	14	Handloom Cotton Weaver
Charles do	Grandson	7		Scholar
James Brown	Prisoner	46		Railway Labourer

Before the West Riding Constabulary was formed in 1856 constables were appointed locally [sc]. To attract employees wages were generally higher than the average working class salary. Applicants were required to be tall strong men of good character and were generally in post for a couple of years.

COUNTY POLICE.—On Friday, the 19th, Colonel Cobbe the Superintendent of the County Police arrived in Settle, and inspected the Lock-Ups. And on Saturday, the 20th, he met of Browsholme Hall. At eleven o'clock the Candidates for the office of Policemen were called in to be examined. They were ten in number, and after going through the examination the Colonel selected Six. The names of the six who passed

Samuel was indeed a physical man. In 1853 Samuel Hodgson 'late constable' was accused of the assault of James Fawcett from Long Preston while he was demanding payment of some fees [1]. The case was dismissed. In 1855 Samuel was again proposed to be a constable with a salary of some £20. He stood against **James Wilkinson** who had been in the post for the previous two years. The appointment process included a discussion between the two candidates 'who were not the best of friends, for they soon got to jarring'. The paper [1] 'would not put in print what passed between them' which hardly qualifies as 'good character'! James was appointed. Samuel went back to working as an agricultural labourer. Times were tough – in 1859 Samuel was fined £2 for 'trespass in pursuit of game'.

**SETTLE.**  
CHARGE OF ASSAULT. — Samuel Hodgson, late constable of Settle, was summoned before the Justices at the Court House on Tuesday, to answer a charge of assault made by James Fawcett, gardener, Long Preston. The complainant, who was

as it was apparent, from what afterwards transpired, that the two peace officers were not the best of friends, for they soon got to jarring. We will not put in print what passed between them, but would just remark that if either should want a character, we think it would not be very much to his interest if it were given by the other. Mr. Wilkinson, suffice it to say, was re-elected by a majority of 21 to 6, after a great deal of contention, which ended with an harangue against tectotalism by our "learned friend" the landlord of the Crown Inn, much to the amusement of all present.

Samuel died in 1878, aged 76. He was obviously proud of being a town constable as his death notice referred to it [1]. Mary died in 1883, aged 85 and they are buried in an unmarked grave at Giggleswick church.

Settle—On the 7th inst., Mr Samuel Hodgson, formerly town's constable, aged 76 years.

What happened to Samuel and Mary's children?

Daughters **Ellen** and **Margaret** married railway workers. Ellen married platelayer **George Freeman** and they retired to Wakefield. Margaret married **Joseph Heaton**, a railway labourer who died when he was 56 'at Giggleswick Station'. At the age of 46 daughter **Sarah** became the second wife of stone-waller **Matthias Mason** in Langcliffe. Margaret and Sarah spent their widowed years living together, still in Kirkgate.

## Settle Graveyard Project

In contrast, 19 year old **Alice** married **Anthony Redmayne**, a cabinet maker and they lived in Blackburn. For some reason, their eldest son **John Redmayne** was brought up by grandparents Samuel and Mary Hodgson in Kirkgate and became a joiner. He married **Jane Foster** who had been brought up in the Folly and they lived in Upper Settle. John and Jane are buried in an unmarked grave Old JX46 with their spinster daughter Alice. John and Jane's daughter **Effie Agnes Redmayne** became a nurse. John and Jane's son **Samuel Hodgson Redmayne** was a postman for over 47 years and, as such, was awarded the Imperial Service Medal and a canteen of cutlery when he retired in 1945. Samuel and Mary's daughter **Mary Hodgson** remained unmarried and lived with her parents all their lives. However, she had a son **Samuel Hodgson**. Samuel worked as a joiner on Kirkgate. When he died in 1943 he left £5 to Settle St John's Ambulance Association, of which he had been a member [2].

### PRESENTATION TO POSTMAN.

Mr. Samuel Hodgson Redmayne, for 47½ years postman in the Settle district was on Tuesday presented with the Imperial Service Medal by the Head Postmaster of Skipton, Mr. F. C. Colbert, with a canteen of cutlery from Mr. R. Putty, Postmaster of Settle, on behalf of the local staff, and a cheque from Mr. P. R. Chaffer on behalf of the Union of Post Office Workers. Mr. Redmayne retired in September.

This left Samuel and Mary's only son, **Samuel Hodgson**, born in 1836, who was born deaf. (Most deafness in the 19th century was caused by infection.) At the time of the 1851 census Samuel was being educated at the Yorkshire Institute for Deaf and Dumb boys and girls in Doncaster. This was one of just nine such schools in the country with places paid for by local (Settle) Poor Law Guardians. Incredibly, from this education, Samuel managed to become a joiner and spent his whole long life working from the Market Place [LSA] and living in Craven Cottages. He was the 'sole maker of Hodgson's draught excluder'! In 1865 Samuel, aged 29, had his photo taken at the Horner Studios [ph4].



Mr Samuel Hodgson, photograph by the Horner Studio. Horner Collection©NCBPT (CC-BY 4.0)

In 1877, aged 41, Samuel married 32 year old **Ann Sutton** from Gomersal, south of Bradford, who was also deaf [3]. Obviously, the papers enjoyed this unusual occasion and told us that Ann was one of five deaf and dumb children. Ann had already had a son Godfrey and had three more children with Samuel, none of whom were deaf.

Their daughter **Mary Ellen** married **Isaac Wain**. Isaac initially worked for Brassington's joinery [ph1] at Bridge End but in 1903 took over the license of the King William Inn on High Street from his father, John. Mary Ellen and

**A NOVEL WEDDING.**—On Thursday, the 27th ult., a considerable number of people assembled at the Wesleyan Chapel, Gomersal, to witness the marriage of Mr. Samuel Hodgson, of Settle, and Miss Ann Sutton, of Gomersal, both the parties being deaf and dumb. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Josiah Felvus, who read the former portion of the marriage service, and then handed to the bride and bridegroom a paper on which was written the declaration to be made by each of them, and their assent was notified by a nod of the head. Mr. Felvus read the remaining part of the service, pronounced them man and wife, and the ceremony was over. One of the bridesmaids and one of the groomsmen were deaf and dumb. Mr. and Mrs. Sutton (parents of the bride) have had nine children, five of whom were deaf and dumb.

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Isaac are buried in the new graveyard New J12 with their daughter and son-in-law

*In loving memory of Mary Ellen Wain died 8th April 1937 aged 55 years. Isaac Wain died 5th October 1950 aged 71 years. John V Parker died 17th May 1975 Aged 63 years. Marion A I Parker died 21st March 1996 Aged 80 years*



Samuel and Ann's youngest son **Harold Hodgson** also spent the first seven years of his working life at Brassingtons. But in 1912 he set sail for Perth, Australia on SS Otway [LSA, ph2]. This high speed steam ship, launched in 1909, regularly ran between the UK and Australia as a trade ship. (It was sunk by a German submarine in 1917.) Harold signed up to the Australian Imperial Forces in 1916, aged 30, with his next of kin being named as dad Samuel, who by then had been widowed and lived at the King William Inn with daughter Mary Ellen and her husband.

27. Mr. Harold Hodgson (son of Mr. S. Hodgson), of Settle, sailed on the s.s. "Otway," for Perth, Western Australia.



Harold [ph3] died from pneumonia on 5th Feb 1919 at Forvant military hospital, in Wiltshire, which could have been as a result of the Spanish Flu epidemic. His body was brought back to Settle for burial. The full military funeral was attended by 100 soldiers. Harold is buried with his dad Samuel and sister-in-law Nellie, the first wife of his brother Thomas in *Old G53*.

*Australian Imperial Forces 5732 Private H. Hodgson Aust. Army Service Corps 5th February 1919 age 33. Also Nellie Hodgson 25th Dec 1912 age 29 and Samuel Hodgson 9th Sept 1916 age 81, Old G53*



Samuel lived longer than any of his five sisters, eventually dying aged 81. The adjacent graves contain family members. *Old G52* contains Samuel Hodgson Redmayne (the postman), his wife Emily and infant son John. *Old G51* contains Samuel's sister Sarah (Mason) and nephew Samuel Hodgson (son of sister Mary) who left money to St John's ambulance and his wife Agnes.

**Sad Death of a Settle Colonial Soldier.**—Wide feelings of sympathy were shown on all sides at the funeral on Sunday of Private Wheeler Harold Hodgson, of the Australian Army Service Corp., a native of Settle. The deceased was spending a leave in Settle only three weeks ago and attended the last meeting of the Castleberg Lodge of Freemasons, to which he was a visitor, and the news of his death came as a great shock to his many friends in Settle, the cause of death being pneumonia, which apparently was very prevalent at Forvant camp, Wiltshire, where deceased was in training. He joined the Colonial Forces nearly three years ago, being drafted to England soon afterwards. The funeral was attended by a large number of friends, including 50 local soldiers on leave and at home pending demobilisation, who paraded under Lieut. Gilchrist, and provided the bearer party, the coffin being covered with the Union Jack. Deceased, who emigrated to Australia eight years ago, was only 33 years of age. Many expressions of sympathy have been extended to his relatives at his sad and untimely end.



*In loving memory of John beloved son of S.H.&E. Redmayne born Dec 9th 1909 died Sep 3rd 1914, Old G52*

*In loving memory of Sarah Mason died June 3rd 1912 aged 71 years. Also of Agnes beloved wife of Samuel Hodgson born April 27th 1862 died January 15th 1922. Also the above Samuel Hodgson born Jan 31st 1860 died May 25th 1943, Old G51*

This last grave, *Old G51* originally belonged to Richard Dawson who died in September 1912 and was buried in the adjacent grave *Old G50*. Burial records tell us that in December 1913 Richard's sister **Agnes (Dawson) Mansergh** gave permission for Samuel and Agnes to be buried in it. At the time of Richard's death Sarah Mason was already buried in *Old G51*!



## The Sutton family

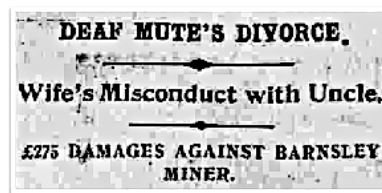
Samuel's wife Ann Sutton was the daughter of **William Sutton** and his wife **Mary Taylor**, neither of whom were deaf. However, five of their children were deaf and dumb. Of the deaf siblings, Isabella died aged 27, Bessy was a housekeeper for her parents and then, when they died, housekeeper for another sibling and little Frank died an infant. Ann's brother Thomas had an unnecessarily difficult life.

Tom worked as a cabinet maker in Gomersal. On 7 June 1894, aged 30, Tom married **Beatrice Woodall** at Wakefield Cathedral. Beatrice was not deaf herself but was the daughter of deaf parents so would have been able to communicate. Tom and Beatrice had three daughters in rapid succession who were not deaf. But then things went wrong.

In 1909 Tom took Beatrice to the divorce courts – it had taken him seven years to save enough money to take her to court [4,5]. He applied (successfully) for a divorce on the grounds of Beatrice's misconduct with her uncle **Sam Hughes**. Sam, only three years older than Beatrice, was the widow of Beatrice's maternal aunt **Clara**, so not actually a blood relation. Clara died in 1902 and Beatrice '*went to look after his home for a while*' after her death which transpired to be some four months during which she became pregnant. Thomas went to find her and asked her to come back home for the sake of the children, despite the pregnancy. Beatrice stayed two days but then went back again. Unsurprisingly this made headlines in a wide range of national papers, noting that '*there were two singular features in this case. One was that the petitioner was a deaf mute, and the second was that the co-respondent was the uncle of the respondent*'.

The divorce was granted and Tom was awarded £275 damages and custody of the children. Beatrice continued to live with uncle Sam Hughes and had another two daughters but died in 1911 aged 38. Uncle Sam married again and had more daughters.

Poor Tom Sutton. In 1910 he married **Emma Gilroy** the daughter of another cabinet maker. Emma's parents and siblings were all deaf and dumb. Tom and Emma had another daughter who wasn't. Tom died in 1929, aged 65 in Dewsbury.



Tom Sutton, a deaf and dumb patternmaker, residing near Bradford, was awarded £275 damages and a decree nisi on the ground of the misconduct of his wife with her uncle, Samuel Hughes, a miner.

It appeared that Mrs. Sutton was the child of deaf and dumb parents, and after the marriage in 1894 she had several children. In 1902 "Uncle Sam's" wife died, and Mrs. Sutton went to look after his home for a while. She stayed from June till September, until the husband went over and found that she and the uncle had been misconducting themselves. Even then, for the sake of the children, the petitioner took her back, but she only stopped two days, and went off to her uncle again. Ever since, the petitioner said, he had been saving up his money in order to bring these proceedings.

A decree was granted as stated. The husband's evidence had to be interpreted by the chaplain of the Royal Association for the Deaf and Dumb, Oxford-street, the "sign" language being rapidly "spoken" and read with remarkable celerity.

Mr. J. Harvey Murphy appeared for the petitioner, and said there were two singular features in the case. One was that the petitioner was a deaf mute, and the second was that the co-respondent was the uncle of the respondent. The marriage took place



*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'.*

## Settle Graveyard Project

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