

Joseph and Rose Alice Breaks, labouring folk

Joseph Breaks was born into a large farming family near Rawtenstall but was brought up near Bolton by Bowland. After his parents died Joseph lived with siblings in Slaidburn, making a living as a labourer. He found his way to Settle and met **Rose Alice Hodgson** who lived with her family in Commercial Street in Upper Settle. Rose Alice was the daughter of **Henry Hodgson**, a labourer and his wife **Alice Ralph** who was also from a labouring family. Henry was the illegitimate son of **Fanny Hodgson** of Clapham and spent his first five years (at least) in Giggleswick workhouse, sadly a common residence for unmarried mums at that time.

The wedding documentation tells us that Joseph was 50 when they married on 17 June 1905 in Settle church and Rose Alice was 33. They went on not have two daughters and three sons. They both lived in Commercial Street – perhaps Joseph had been lodging with the family? One of the witnesses was **Robert Ralph**, Rose Alice's half-brother born before her mum married Henry Hodgson.

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the Time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
355	June Seventeenth 1905	Joseph Breaks Rose Alice Hodgson	50 years 33 years	Bachelor Spinster	labourer —	Commercial St. Commercial St.	William Breaks (Deceased) Henry Hodgson	Farmer Labourer
Married in the <u>Church of Holy Assumption</u> according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by _____ or after <u>Breaks</u> by me, _____								
This Marriage was solemnized between us, <u>Joseph Breaks</u> <u>Rose Alice Hodgson</u>			in the Presence of us, <u>Robert Ralph</u> <u>Sarah Knight</u>					

Church burial records tell us that, by some circumstance, Rose Alice's dad, Henry Hodgson was 'found drowned' and was buried on 28 October 1912, aged 66. He was buried in an unmarked grave, Old AX23 and Alice joined him when she died in 1918, aged 79. Unrelated widow Fanny (Burn) Wilkinson, aged 80, was already in the grave. Fanny had spent her whole life in Birmingham, the wife of a boiler maker before being in Settle at the time of her death in 1887.

Fanny Wilkinson	80 yrs.	June 29 th 1887	
Henry Hodgson	66 yrs	Oct 28 th 1912	found drowned
Alice Hodgson	79 yrs	Apr 3 rd 1918	

Having spent a few years living in Chapel Street Joseph and Rose Alice Breaks moved into Commercial Street after Henry died. Joseph died in 1919, aged 64 when his youngest son, Robert Breaks was just six. Poor Rose Alice would still be coming to terms with her mother's death. However, she brought up the children by herself and most of them lived with her until she died in 1949 aged 75.

Sons **Robert Breaks** and **Thomas Breaks**, a collector of taxes moved away. Daughters **Alma Breaks** and **Alice Breaks** remained spinsters, spending some time working in domestic service. Alice worked for George Kenneth Charlesworth, solicitor and family at Barnstead on Stackhouse Lane and Alma worked in service for Mrs Coulthurst at The Terrace in Settle, although came home at night. Ada also worked as an auxiliary nurse at Harden Bridge old people's hospital. Alice was 93 when she died and Alma reached 100! They were buried with their parents in Old H53.

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Breaks Family in loving memory Joseph Breaks died 22-9-1919, Rose Breaks died 1-7-1947, Alice Breaks died 25-4-2000, Alma Breaks 21-10-2005. R.I.P. Old H53

Eldest son **William (Billy) Breaks** stayed in Settle and, when he was 30, in 1939 married **Margaret Dinsdale** and they started a family. Initially Billy [ph2-right] worked for the Top Coop in Victoria Street, Upper Settle, pictured with **Frank James** [left] and **Horace Patrick** [centre] but then set up his own business as a grocer. He ran a shop on Church Street (recently a nail bar) and also advertised daily deliveries – ‘ask our van to give you a call’. The van advertised Breaks of Settle as ‘Fruiterers of Distinction’ and obviously delivered to some very wealthy customers – this wonderful photo, taken in the early 1950s was taken outside Taitlands in Stainforth. **Peter ‘Pinky’ Newhouse** was the driver and



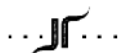
Breaks Fruit Van, photograph by the Horner Studio. Horner Collection©NCBPT (CC-BY 4.0)

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his sister **Glenda (Newhouse) Clarke** served the customers. The van was stored off the Green in Upper Settle.



William died in 1961, aged just 51 and left a healthy estate to Margaret. Margaret lived until the age of 94, dying in 2007. They were buried together in the New graveyard, *NewD11* with a flower receptacle to mark the spot.



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 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'.

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