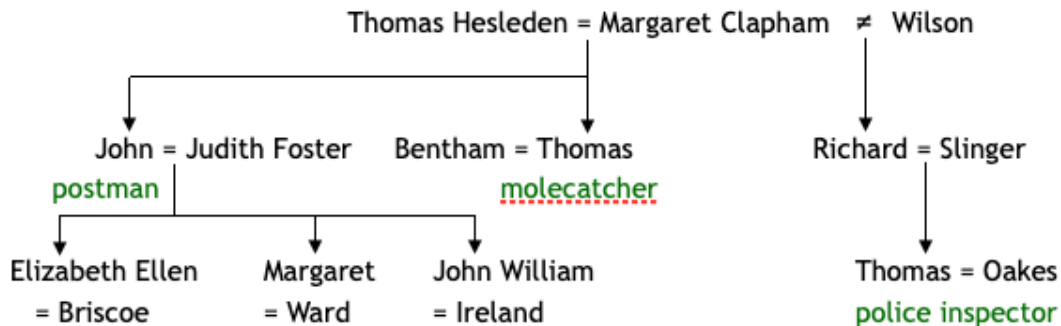


The Hesledens, serving the community

The Hesledens had lived and farmed in Horton-in-Ribblesdale since the early 1700s and, if records were available, we'd probably find them there earlier as well too. In 1832 **Thomas Hesleden** married local girl **Margaret Clapham**. Thomas, an agricultural labourer, was 26 and Margaret was 40.

Hesleden Family Tree



Before Margaret married Thomas Hesleden she had a son, **Richard Clapham**, named after her father. She was 27 at the time. Richard's wedding documentation named **James Wilson** as his father, whoever he was. Richard married **Agnes Slinger** from Horton-in-Ribblesdale. They farmed in Dentdale but later moved back to Ingleton where Richard worked as a miner. They had five children, the youngest being **Thomas Clapham**. At the age of 16 Thomas was in Mountmellick, in the centre of Ireland, for his wedding to **Eliza Oakes** who was 21. They stayed in Ireland for the birth of their first child (of at least seven) and then moved back to Liverpool. Thomas was a police sergeant [ph6] and later Police Inspector.



Thomas dealt with all the usual drunk and disorderlies, theft and assault. On one occasion he took a landlord to court for serving Police Constable 462 alcohol whilst he was on duty [2]. Thomas entered the establishment and 'found Police-Constable 462 with five glasses of ale before him'. PC 462 was two miles away from his regular beat and so the landlord claimed he did not know him and did not see his badge. The landlord was fined 20 shillings plus costs. We'll never know what happened to PC 462. Being drunk was the most common reason for dismissal from the police force in the 19th century. A highlight of Thomas' career could well have been in 1894 when he was in charge of a detachment of police forming the welcoming committee on the platform at Victoria Street when the Duke and Duchess of York arrived for a Royal Visit [2]. Thomas was only 46 when he died in 1900.

THE POLICE AND THE PUBLICANS. A "SCENE" IN COURT.

Mr. Moss stated that at ten minutes past nine o'clock on the 5th instant Sergeant Clapham and Police-constable 688 entered the house in question and found Police-constable 462, whilst he was on duty, with five glasses containing ale before him. The defendant admitted the offence at the time.

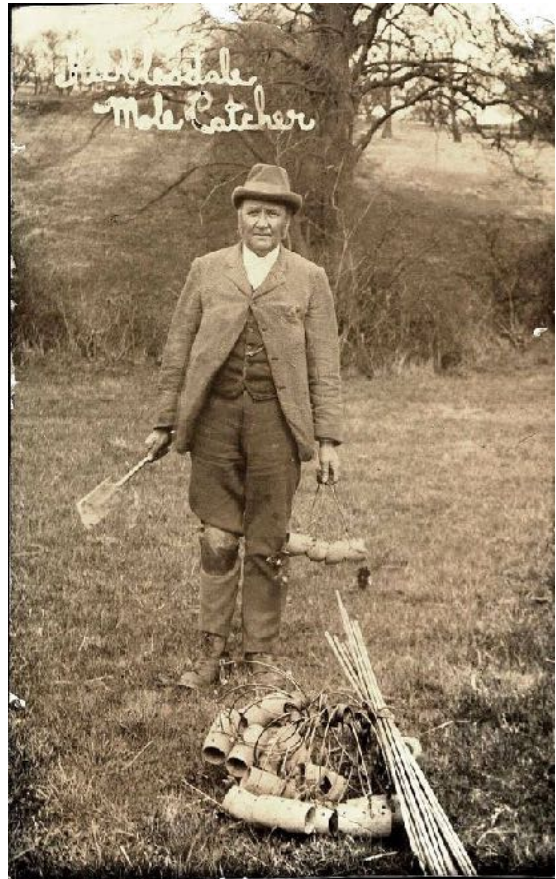
ROYAL VISIT TO LIVERPOOL
—
RECEPTION OF THE DUKE
AND DUCHESS OF YORK.
—
THE NEW POSTOFFICE.
—
LAYING THE FIRST STONE
—
WEDDING GIFT OF THE CITY.
—
THE CEREMONY AT ST.
GEORGE'S HALL.

Settle Graveyard Project

Once married Thomas and Margaret (Clapham) Hesleden had two sons, **John** and **Thomas**. In 1856, younger son, Thomas Hesleden married **Agnes Bentham**, also from Horton-in-Ribblesdale, and they had six children. In 1867 Thomas took over the tenancy of the Golden Lion Inn in Horton-in-Ribblesdale. As tenancies go it was relatively quiet which is surprising considering the navvies arrived to build the Settle to Carlisle Railway line around this time. There was one event at the inn which made the headlines involving **Joseph Smith**, a 64 year old navy (very old for a navy) who was based at Helwith Bridge navy huts. On the 21st March 1872 Joseph went to the Golden Lion Inn and while he was there separated a fight between fellow navy **John Smith** (no relation), and '**Harry the carpenter**'. During the scuffle John Smith stole 15 sovereigns from Joseph Smith. There was a local hearing on the case. The newspaper report suggests that, in a swift sleight of the hand, John took the money from Joseph's waistcoat whilst commenting on his buttons and then fled with the proceeds to Batty Green [1]. The hearing was 'long and tedious' and John Smith was committed for trial. Unfortunately, Joseph died of a heart attack just six weeks later and there are no further reports about the case. Perhaps the fight brought about Joseph Smith's death and perhaps John Smith got away with it?

to him, and this was done. After this, it appears that a quarrel arose between John Smith, and Harry, the carpenter, and that the said Joseph Smith stood between them to prevent a fight. John Smith then remarked that the buttons of Joseph Smith's waistcoat were off, and that he (Joseph Smith) pulled open the said waistcoat, and immediately left the house. Joseph Smith then, on examining his pocket, found that his money was gone. The prisoner was traced to the

After ten years at the Golden Lion, in 1877, Thomas retired but soon started a new occupation — as a mole catcher and gamekeeper for Mr Ingleby! [ph4]. By the time of the 1901 census Thomas, helped by brother John and his wife and daughters, was a '*gamekeeper and postmaster*' in Horton-in-Ribblesdale. Thomas and Agnes were buried with their young daughter, Margaret and have a splendid gravestone in Horton-in-Ribblesdale graveyard, overlooking the Golden Lion, appropriately.



In remembrance of Margaret, daughter of Thomas and Agnes Hesleden of Horton-in-Ribblesdale who died September 3rd 1869, aged 12 years. Have they not reason to voice whose song has been called by a gracious father's voice to better heirs of heaven. Also of Agnes Hesleden who died March 13th 1908, aged 74 years, also of the above Thomas Hesleden who died May 1st 1921, aged 86 years.



Thomas and Margaret's daughter **Agnes Hesleden** married into Settle's **Sharp** family. Their daughter **Elizabeth** remained a spinster. Her probate documentation demonstrated the confusion of the spelling of the Hesleden surname.

HESLEDEN
or
HESELDEN Elizabeth.

Meanwhile, in 1859, Thomas and Margaret's elder son, **John Hesleden**, married **Judith Foster**, one of two illegitimate daughters of **Betty Foster** of Clapham/Newby. Betty married **Robert Foster**,

Settle Graveyard Project

possibly a relation, in 1841 and they started their own family and so Judith, aged just 12, worked in domestic service for a farmer in Newby. From there, Judith worked as a house servant for widow **Sarah (Watson) Edmondson** in the Market Place in Settle in the building which is now the bike shop. Sarah was the very wealthy widow of solicitor **Christopher Edmondson** who died, aged just 37 and was the first burial in Settle graveyard. John, Judith and their expanding family lived in Langcliffe but then moved to Settle. The reason? On 20 April 1863, John, aged 30, was appointed to work for the Post Office as a 'rural messenger' (postman) delivering post all the way up the valley between Settle and Horton-in-Ribblesdale. That's a tough, physical feat when tackled on foot every day. The photo of fellow postie, **Thomas Oates**, gives us an idea of John's uniform [ph1]. John, Judith and family lived at Sutcliffe buildings, next to the Folly and near the Post Office for the rest of their lives.

In 1883 John was awarded three gold merit stripes for long service, having worked for 20 years [1]. **John Walker**, father of chemist **William Walker** was awarded the same stripes and 26 year old **Arthur Davy** of Langcliffe was awarded one stripe, perhaps working for 10 years? Poor Arthur died two years later leaving a wife and two daughters.

MERIT STRIPES FOR THE POSTMEN.—The letter carriers engaged here have just received merit stripes for long service and good conduct. Messrs. **John Walker** and **John Hesleden** have been awarded three gold stripes each, and Mr. A. Davy one stripe. Each stripe is equivalent to an advance of one shilling per week in the recipient's pay.



John retired from his duties as postman from Settle to Horton-in-Ribblesdale in January 1897 'after thirty-six years', aged 64 [LSA] — it was actually 33 years but a long time anyway.

16. Mr. John Hesleden retired from his duties as postman from Settle to Horton-in-Ribblesdale, after thirty-six years service.

John eventually died in 1920, aged 87 and was buried in the unmarked *Old GX48* with Judith who had died in 1918, aged 89. John and Judith had four daughters and two sons although son **Thomas** and two daughters **Mary Ann** and **Judith** died as infants and were buried in the Ancient graveyard. Daughter **Elizabeth Ellen Hesleden** married a Lancaster engineer and merchant **John Briscoe**. The 1911 census return indicates that the Briscoes had 15 children before poor Elizabeth Ellen died in 1908, aged 45, two years after the birth of **Fanny Briscoe**. Elizabeth Ellen must have been worn out. Seven of those 15 children died as infants. John and Elizabeth Ellen's spinster daughter **Judith Hesleden Elsie Briscoe** died in Blackburn in 1933, aged 42. For some reason she was buried with her grandparents in Settle in the unmarked *Old GX48*.

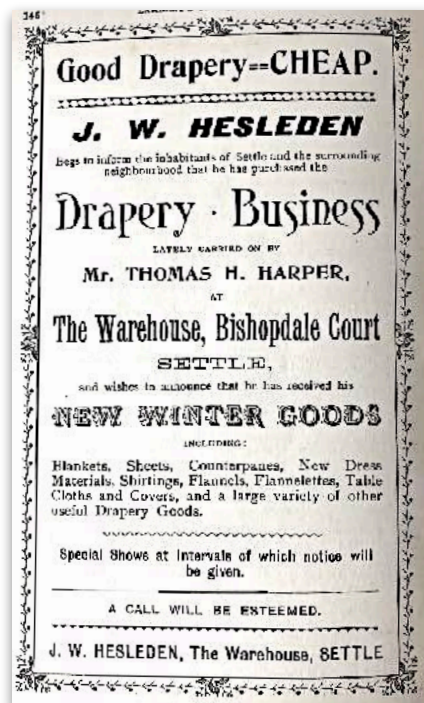
John and Judith Hesleden's eldest daughter **Margaret Ellen Hesleden** married **Thomas Ward**, a carpenter and together they ran a tobacconist and fancy goods shop at the Conservative Club building opposite the station — and a left luggage service [LSA]. Once retired Thomas and Margaret Ellen worked as



caretakers of the Conservative Club. They were members of the Temperance Society and, perhaps as a result, both lived into their 80s and are buried in the unmarked *Old DX24* with an infant son **Thomas**. In the summer of 1922 Thomas and Margaret Ellen's daughter **Elizabeth Ward** married **Richard Hodgson**, of the blacksmithing family on Castle Hill. Unfortunately, he died in December the same year. Elizabeth was already pregnant with a daughter **Margaret Eleanor Hodgson** and they lived with Thomas and Margaret Ellen Ward.

John and Judith's son, **John William Hesleden**, was apprenticed to **Ellwood Brockbank**, an immensely successful businessman who started life as a grocer and draper and was a director of **John Tatham's** department store on Cheapside. After marrying **Lizzie Hannah Ireland** (from Horton-in-Ribblesdale) in 1894 John William bought a drapery business from **Thomas Hall Harper**, based in Bishopsdale Court [LSA]. Thomas Hall Harper used the money to set up a cycle business, assisted by **Robert Haygarth**. John William moved the business to Duke Street and Station Road. So successful was the business that John William and Lizzie, at the time of the 1911 census lived in the enormous houses of The Terrace on Duke Street with three children and a servant. John William was a member of the church choir and Settle Bowling Club. In 1928 they retired and moved to Kirby Stephen but, by the time of the 1939 register the family were running the Black Bull Hotel in Hawes [ph3]. Their daughter **Mary Whinray Hesleden** married hairdresser **John Hunt**, the son of **James Hunt**, hairdresser and photographer, based at the Town Hall [ph2]. The Hunt family also traded in bicycles and jewellery.

A very distant branch of the Hesledens found themselves farming in Langcliffe and on Malham Moor. **William Hesleden** and **Eliza Lofthouse** had several children. Their daughter **Beatrice Betsy Hesleden** married **Thomas Cokell**, son of **Samuel Cokell** and **Sarah Ewbank**. Another daughter, **Doris Annie (Dot) Hesleden** moved to Settle. She had a stroke of luck when she inherited a pot shop in Duke Street (next to Bar 13) from **Frederick William Nuttall** where she had been an employee. Dot lived at Longlands, Station Road in Giggleswick.



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.

Settle Graveyard Project

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'.

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Lancaster Gazette, 2 – Liverpool Mercury

LSA – with the kind permission of the North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust

ph1– credited to the Back in Settle Facebook page, photo by John Bordley, Ben Mackenzie collection, ph2 – kindly provided by John Reid, ph3 – credited to britishlistedbuildings.co.uk, ph4 – credited to the Back in Settle Facebook page, submitted by Sandra Cowin, ph5 – credited to family descendants via Ancestry.co.uk, username gravestone username Nic Wilson, ph6 – credited to family descendants via Ancestry.co.uk, username Lynn Hindle, ph7 – credited to the Back in Settle Facebook page, submitted by Mick Harrison