

The Hudsons, good honest working folk

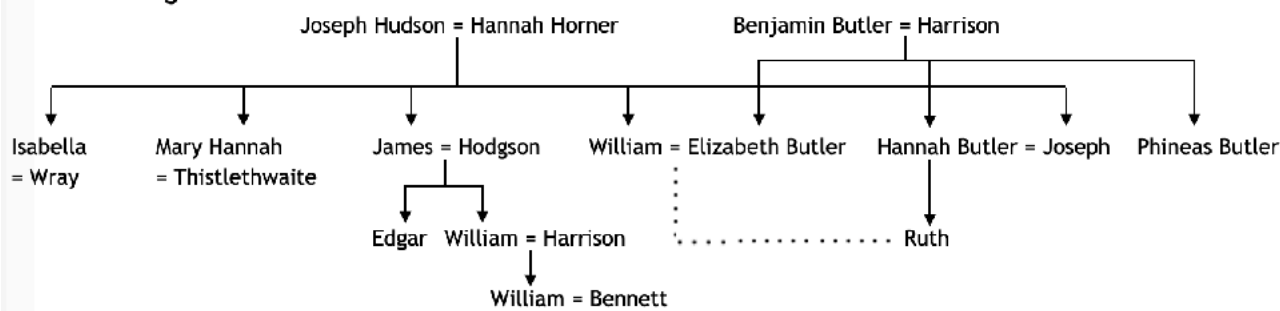
The Hudsons were born and bred in Giggleswick, a working class family who lived for generations in Church Street and Garstangs Yard, at the bottom of Belle Hill. Several members of the family moved away for work but 29 of them are buried in unmarked graves in Giggleswick graveyard. They hardly ever made the headlines so we don't know too much about them as people but it's good to celebrate families like these who form the backbone of daily life.

In 1848 **Joseph Hudson** married **Hannah Horner**, also from a Giggleswick family, and they had four sons and two daughters. Joseph worked wherever there was a salary, at the times of census returns being an agricultural/farm labourer, a railway labourer (while the Leeds to Lancaster line was being built) and a labourer at the Tan Yard. Hannah died in 1885, aged 55 and Joseph followed in 1898, aged 76, having been looked after by his youngest daughter, **Isabella Hudson**. Joseph and Hannah were buried in unmarked graves in Giggleswick graveyard.

After Joseph died Isabella married **John Wray** whose family also lived on Belle Hill. His father, another **John Wray**, was a farmer 'of 30 acres' and innkeeper and auctioneer at the Harts Head Inn. In 1879 John (Snr) had a bit of a shock when **William Kidd** of Clapham died on the way home from the Hart's Head — William has his own account! According to witnesses Mr Kidd had only had 'five glasses of beer, another of sherry but no spirits' and so John was not held liable for his death and the case was dismissed [1]. John (Snr) also had a few court appearances for failing to report cases of foot and mouth disease and cruelty to animals. Son John and Isabella moved to Nelson where he worked as a labourer in Joseph Barker's hay and straw warehouse.

A QUESTION OF SOBRIETY.—[John Wray, innkeeper, Giggleswick,] was summoned by the police for having, on Tuesday evening, the 8th inst., supplied two glasses of whisky to William Kidd, of Clapham, who, it was alleged, was not sober at the time, and who on the night in question met an untimely death whilst returning home.—The Superintendent having briefly stated

Hudson family



Joseph and Hannah's daughter, **Mary Hannah Hudson**, married **Daniel Thistlethwaite** from Ingleton who started his working life as a cordwainer/shoemaker. However, by the time he married Mary Hannah he had become a police constable, initially placed in Keighley and then in Guiseley, Ripon and Skipton. In 1899 Daniel was a witness in the trial of **John Hare** who was found guilty of being drunk and disorderly and 'threatened to slaughter three policemen'. It was his sixth conviction and was fined 15 shillings [2]. By the time of the 1901 census Daniel had retired and claimed his police pension and the family lived in Skipton.

SUNDAY BRAWLING AT RIPON.
At the Ripon City Court on Monday, before the Mayor (Mr. T. Smithson) and Mr. W. Wells, John Hare, of Stonebridgegate, Ripon, labourer, was brought up in custody charged with being drunk and disorderly in Stonebridgegate last night. Prisoner pleaded guilty.—Sergeant Hastings proved the case, and gave evidence of defendant's disorderly conduct. He threatened to slaughter three policemen.—P.C. Wilson corroborated.—Sergeant Thistlethwaite stated this was prisoner's sixth appearance. The last fine was

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In 1880, Joseph and Hannah's son **James Hudson** worked as a leather tanner, possibly for the Whittams on the Green in Upper Settle, when he married **Mary Hodgson** of Heysham. They lived in Church Street, Giggleswick with their expanding family. By the time of the 1901 census James described himself as a 'road scavenger' but found a new occupation at the cutting edge of roadbuilding and quarry transport. Traction engines and steam rollers were the new technology to improve efficiency. In 1895, at a Rural District Council meeting, **Edward Taylor** proposed that the council purchase a steam roller to improve the roads but would also lessen the rates. The proposition was seconded by James Hudson who would later become its driver[3].

STEAM ROAD ROLLER.—Mr. Ed. Taylor moved a resolution that the Council purchase a steam roller. He was certain that the provision of a steam roller would not only improve the roads, but would also lessen the rates.—Mr. Taylor's proposition was seconded by Mr. H. J. Hudson and carried.



In his book *Gossip from Giggleswick* **Bill Mitchell** featured a photo of a steam wagon on Mill Lane, behind Giggleswick School, showing the resulting state of the roads! The driver of this wagon was **Edgar Hudson**, James and Mary Hudson's son. James and Edgar would most likely have known fellow steam engine drivers, **Alexander Field** and **Joe Parsons**. James' unmarried brother **Thomas Hudson**, a railway platelayer, lived permanently with James and Mary's family in Church Street.

James and Mary's son **William Hudson**, another railway platelayer, also lived in Church Street with his wife, **Mary Harrison**, and family. Their 17 year old son, another **William Hudson**, unfortunately made the headlines in the winter of 1924 while he was sledging down Belle Hill. That's a proper winter! He accidentally knocked down 48 year old widow, **Ellen Rowlinson**, who fell on her head, fracturing her skull. William tried to avoid her by steering to the left but she also moved to the left and so the collision happened[4]. Apparently Superintendent Burgin had stopped the sledging but as soon as his back was turned they started again! They even carried on sledging after the accident. Oh dear. William later married **Elsie Henderson Bennett** and worked servicing the aerial ropeway that transported materials from the quarry to Giggleswick Station. Elsie's sister, **Margaret Bennett**, married **Fred Harrison** and they had their own incredible story.

TOBOGGAN PERILS.
—♦♦♦—
WOMAN CAUGHT BY SLEDGE AND KILLED.
—♦♦♦—
Knocked down by a toboggan on Boxing Day, Ellen Rowlinson (48), widow, of Settle, died from her injuries. An inquest was held at Skipton.
—♦♦♦—
Supt. Burgin intimated that tobogganing had been stopped by the police, but added when the policeman's back was turned the practice was resumed.

Going back a couple of generations, Joseph and Hannah's eldest sons, **William Hudson** and **Joseph Hudson** married sisters **Elizabeth Butler** and **Hannah Butler**. They were the daughters of **Benjamin Butler**, a successful farmer of Easington/Gisburn and his wife **Anne Harrison**. The sisters had a sister, **Charity Butler** and a brother **Phineas Butler**, one of several related **Phineas Butlers** many of whom could not be described as models of propriety! Brother Phineas Butler started work as a farm labourer and then moved to Manchester, working as a carter. When he was 31 in December 1884, he married a farmer's daughter **Rhoda Holgate** and they moved to live at Lostock Hall, west of Bolton and had four children. However, incredibly and disturbingly, in February 1889, Phineas was convicted of 'carnally knowing a girl above the age of 13 and under the age of 16' and

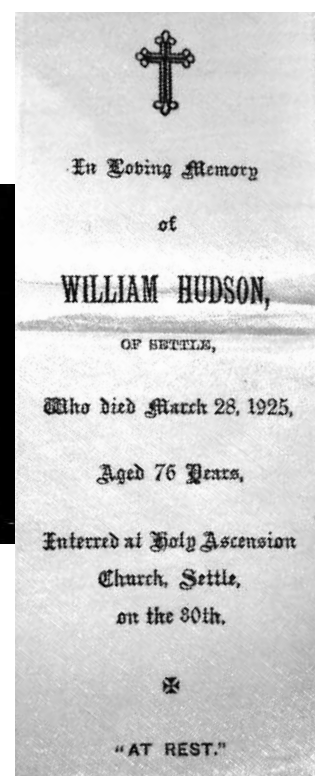
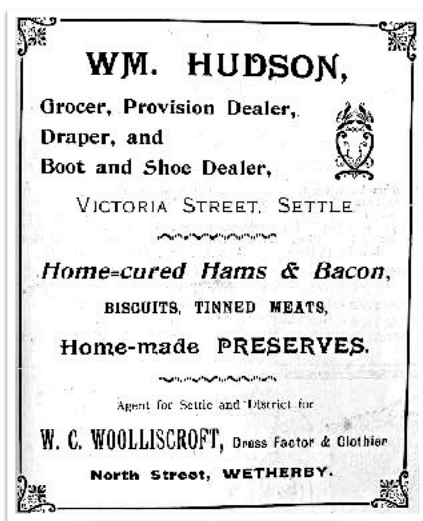
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was imprisoned for nine months with hard labour. There was no such thing as a sex offender's register in those days and the sanction seems quite lenient by today's standards. By a law of 1823 it was legal to marry at the age of 14 for boys and 12 for girls. It wasn't until the 1929 Marriage Act that this was changed to 16 for both girls and boys. The poor girl, **Mary Crady**, was just

Having at Loston, on the 21st February, 1889, unlawfully and carnally known a certain girl to wit, one Mary Crady, she being then above the age of thirteen years and under the age of sixteen years to wit, of the age of thirteen years and seven months.

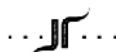
13 at the time. At the time of the 1881 census she was in Bolton workhouse, presumably orphaned. At the time of the following 1891 census she was working in domestic service, aged 15. Understandably, Phineas's wife lived apart from him in subsequent census returns!

Meanwhile sisters Elizabeth and Hannah, who appeared to be quite close, married the Hudson brothers. Joseph and Hannah and their family farmed at Winskill and in Bell Busk. William and Elizabeth worked as grocers, living in Victoria Street in Settle [LSA]. In his diary **Charlie Green**, a gardener, described how, when he first decided to become self-employed he found himself with a cash flow problem. However, his 'old friends' Billy and Mrs Hudson 'let me have anything I needed on credit.' **Rev Brocklehurst** also paid him in advance for work in his garden leading Charlie to say 'What a lot of friendly actions there are in this world?' He described William as 'a real Yorkshireman.' [B]



William and Elizabeth [B] didn't have children but brought up Elizabeth's niece, **Ruth Butler**, who was the illegitimate daughter of sister Hannah Butler born before her marriage to Joseph. Ruth remained living with William and Elizabeth until 1918, when, aged 42, she married 26 year old **John Isaac Wrathall**, who was a Liverpool man who farmed in Hellifield. Unfortunately, Ruth died nine years later, aged 51 and John remarried.

William and Elizabeth retired to live at 2 East View on Duke Street. William died in 1925, aged 76. After this Elizabeth was joined by her sister Charity who had remained a spinster and worked as a cook at Taitlands in Stainforth. Charity died in 1933 and was buried in an unmarked grave in the *New graveyard BX30*. Elizabeth followed in 1935, aged 84 and was buried with William in the unmarked plot *Old KX32*.



Settle Graveyard Project

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'.

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1 – Lancaster Gazette, 2 – Richmond Chronicle, 3 Lancaster Standard, 4 – Sunderland Daily Echo

A – Gossip from Giggleswick by W R Mitchell

B – The diaries of Charles Green, with the kind permission of the Museum of North Craven Life

LSA - Lambert's Settle Almanac with the kind permission of the Museum of North Craven Life