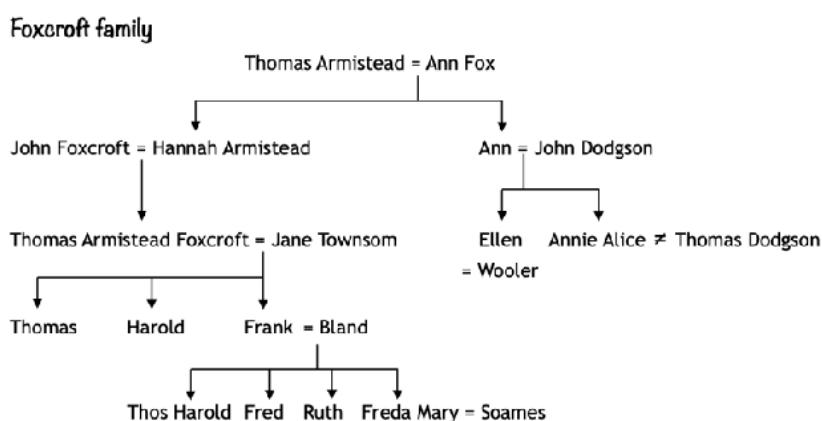


The Foxcrofts, sanitary inspectors

The Foxcrofts were a family of joiners from Wennington and Wray. **John Foxcroft**, born in 1917, was so skilled that he cut wooden bobbins on a lathe for use in the weaving industry. John married **Hannah Armistead** and they had three boys and three girls although two daughters, **Alice** and **Jane** died in infancy. Daughter **Elizabeth** remained a spinster and worked as a maid and housekeeper. Sons **John** and **Joseph** stayed local and also worked as joiners.

Eldest son, **Thomas Armistead Foxcroft** (named after his mother's father) also began working life as a joiner in Hornby. He started a family of four sons and a daughter with his wife, **Jane Townson**, although son **John** died a toddler. In 1893, upon the death of **Thomas Charles Millington**, Thomas was appointed 'Inspector of Nuisances' and 'Sanitary Inspector' in Settle. These roles were introduced in 1855 aiming to reduce infant mortality, improve hygiene and reduce the transmission of disease. The use of disinfectant and better midwifery made a massive difference but this wasn't until much later.



Much of Thomas's work seemed to revolve around water supply and drainage. Thomas was 'in attendance' at his office at the bottom of Castle Hill daily at 9am and all day Tuesday to hear any complaints from the public. Alongside **Fred Grisedale**, **Dr Atkinson** and others, Thomas regularly reported to the Rural District Council who met fortnightly in the Town Hall [LSA]. In turn, they funded infrastructure development and issued warnings and fines to businesses and individuals who didn't conform to regulations. One such was in February 1902 Settle Council when **James Twisleton** was issued with a 'Notice to provide Privy', formally warning him that the eight houses he rented to residents in Upper Settle were 'without sufficient water closet and ash pit accommodation'. He was given 28 days to install 'water closets with separate service or flushing cisterns and three ashpits furnished with proper doors and coverings.'

SETTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.	
Chairman—Mr. F. J. Haggas, J.P.	Vice-Chairman—Mr. John Peel.
Clerk—Mr. T. E. Pearson, Solicitor, Settle.	
Assistant Clerk—Mr. Frederick Grisedale, Settle.	
Medical Officer of Health—Mr. F. E. Atkinson, L.R.C.P., Lond., M.R.C.S.	
Inspector of Nuisances—Mr. T. A. Foxcroft, Asso. San. Inst., Settle.	
Assistant Surveyor—Mr. Harold Foxcroft, Settle.	
Assistant in Surveyor's Office—Mr. F. Foxcroft, Settle.	
Highway Surveyor—Mr. W. A. Stuart.	
Assistant Surveyor—Mr. H. J. Parker.	
Water Rate Collectors—Settle and Giggleswick, Mr. G. Horner.	

In 1903 Thomas, together with Craven's medical officer, **Francis Edward Atkinson**, were instrumental in establishing and finding a site for the new Isolation Hospital for the Settle Union at Harden Bridge. Frequent outbreaks of scarlet fever and other infectious diseases had been separated in a wing at Giggleswick Hospital but it was not sufficiently isolated to prevent the spread of disease. Thomas and other officials looked at sites at Four Lane Ends in Giggleswick (not

Settle Graveyard Project

sufficiently isolated), Paley Green (too remote), Clapham Common and Clapham Station (too exposed) or at Harden Bridge. The committee considered accessibility, drainage and cost, of course. The land was purchased for £500 and building began in 1904 led by **Brassington and Corney** of Settle. It had a Scarlet Fever Pavilion to house 14 patients in separate sex wards, administration and laundry blocks and a separate mortuary, of course. They even had stables to provide for horse drawn ambulances. It cost a further £6000 to build and was officially opened in 1909.

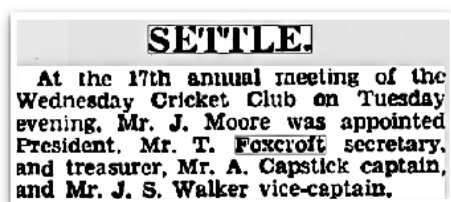
In 1921 'architect Thomas Foxcroft of Settle' was engaged to design a porch for St Leonard's Church, Chapel-le-Dale [ph5] to commemorate the sacrifice of the community in WW1. Unfortunately Thomas was very slow at providing plans and, in the end, the **Brassingtons** completed much of the work.



Thomas and the family lived in Duke Street and then moved to the brand new houses on High Hill Grove. Son **Thomas Foxcroft** decided on a career as a hairdresser, initially working for **James Hunt** in the Town Hall. He ran his business with spinster sister **Annie Foxcroft** in the corner shop next to the White Horse (opposite the Royal Oak) [ph1] — several hairdressers worked from there, both before and afterwards. Thomas was also a keen cricketer and secretary of the Wednesday Cricket Club (which met on Tuesday evening!), working alongside **John Moore** and **John Fraser Walker** and others [1].



At some point Thomas had a bet with butcher **Mr Leneghan**, also a cricketer. Leneghan successfully won a free haircut from Thomas as he managed to throw a stone to hit Kilnsey Crag, ten times in succession from the road, and also won a bet to throw a stone into Settle Weir from the bridge, some 112 yards entitling him to charge Thomas double for a chop every Thursday for a year [2].



Thomas and Hannah's sons **Harold** and **Frank** followed in their father's footsteps working for the Rural Council in the surveyor's section of the Sanitary services. Harold died in 1926 aged just 42, leaving his wife, **Isabel (Walker) Foxcroft** and a young son. They moved to Skipton.

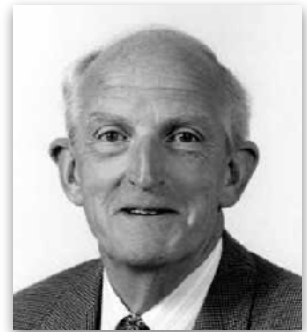


After working in Settle, Frank was appointed as Inspector of Nuisances for the Easingwold Rural District Council [LSA] where he met his

4. Mr. Frank Foxcroft, assistant sanitary inspector to the Settle Rural District Council was appointed to the position of Inspector of Nuisances and Sanitary Surveyor to the Easingwold Rural District Council, York.—Marriage of Mr. A. Field

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wife **Clara Ellen Bland** in 1918. They returned to Settle after that and lived at 1 Marshfield to have their family of two sons and three daughters and Frank and Fred [below -3] followed in their father's footsteps in Settle [1]. Frank and Clara Ellen's daughter **Ruth** died an infant. Son **Thomas Harold Foxcroft** [ph7], always known as Harold, went from Giggleswick School to graduate in electronics and had a successful career in Ruislip, Welwyn Garden City and then Salford University. He retired to Settle with his wife, **Audrey Purdue**, after spending a day or two here to try it out! — how lucky the town of Settle was! Never one to sit still, Harold led walks for the North Craven Heritage Trust and became the editor of their journal which, unsurprisingly included an impressive obituary for Thomas when he died in 2017, aged 88. Harold was a steward at The Folly and donated his grandfather's archives to them, including information about the water supplies of local communities. He was involved in the early days of Settle Swimming Pool and the Settle Area Community Council. Thomas also made a significant contribution to our community by compiling the first digitisation of the burial records at Holy Ascension church in the early days of home computers. This project is indebted to him.



The gravestone *Old G58* commemorates the lives of Thomas and Jane and sons Thomas, Frank and Harold, however Harold was not buried in the grave, perhaps his ashes are there? It also contains infant granddaughter Ruth, Frank and Clara Ellen's daughter and the ashes of Thomas Harold Foxcroft. Thomas and Jane's daughter Annie was buried all by herself in the unmarked *New LX63* when she died in 1963, aged 70, as this grave was full.



In memory of Jane Foxcroft 14th April 1854-24 July 1915. Ruth Foxcroft 17th Nov 1925-14 Dec 1925. Thomas Foxcroft 17 Nov 1853-23rd July 1928. Frank Foxcroft 4th June 1885-27 Feb 1951. Harold Foxcroft 28 Jan 1929 - 27th July 2017. Old G58

Frank and Clara Ellen's daughter **Freda Mary Foxcroft** married the incredible **Derek Victor Soames**. Derek was the son of **Edward Victor Denmark Soames**, a quarryman and his wife **Emily Monk** of Langcliffe. Derek [ph2] had a long career on the railway and became a local legend. The *Bradford Telegraph and Argus* printed an article about him in 2001:

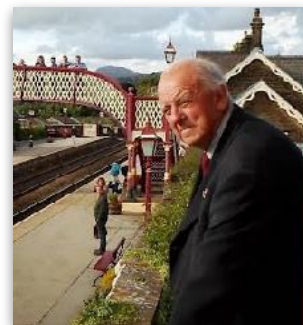
Imagine the days when even small stations were lit by 30-odd paraffin lamps — and each one had to be cleaned every day. Imagine arriving at work on a dark winter's morning after a journey of two or three hours — and your first job was to sweep all the platforms so that they were spotlessly clean. This was the early working life of Derek Soames who left his village school at the age of 13 to start on an extraordinarily full life — but was never more than an ordinary working man.

Derek started his working life delivering groceries by bike for Settle Co-op before he even left school towards the end of World War Two. "I was once sent off by bus on a Saturday afternoon to deliver some groceries to Long Preston," he recalls with chuckle. "The war was still on and transport was difficult. No-one told me that there was no bus back so I had to walk back to Settle — and then cycle home to Langcliffe."

The station master at Settle spotted Derek's hard-work ethic and employed him from the age of 13. He worked his way up through the LMS system spending time in Kildwick, Morecambe, Garsdale and Bolton Abbey travelling to work by bike and then train, sometimes having to get up at 4am. They were long 10 hour days, sweeping, cleaning and making deliveries. Later he became a relief

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signalman working at many of the boxes in the area. In those days the railway was at its peak with 65-70 trains in an eight hour day. Derek said that the Langcliffe box had been hit by trains on more than one occasion so when he was working there he would always be ready to jump! Finally, Derek was appointed signalman at Settle Junction, just a couple of miles walk from his home — 1 Marshfield Road (inherited from Freda Mary's parents). In the end Derek worked for 50 years on the railway and inevitably became an active member of the Friends of the Settle-Carlisle Railway with one of his joys being to show people around the signal box [ph3]. Derek featured in several books and promotional videos about the Settle and Carlisle Railway.



When not on shift, Derek helped out the local undertaker, helped on Settle Market Days erecting stalls and became water bailiff for Settle Anglers — he was a keen angler [ph4,7]. As well as having five children of their own, Derek and his wife Freda Mary Foxcroft fostered over 100 children. Freda also ran a children's nursery. People remember they had some old 'Giggleswick Station' signs in their garden. Derek and Freda are buried in the grave *New D37* with a fine view of the railway, of course. To this day, their son, a steam engine driver, always blows his whistle whenever he passes by in his engine

In loving memory of Freda Mary Soames 16th June 1931 – 13th August 1999. A friend to children. Derek Victor Soames 27th July 1930 – 24th October 2013. Loving husband and dad, New D37



Going back a generation or two, we return to Hannah Armistead who married the first John Foxcroft. She was one of three daughters of **Thomas Armistead** (who died when Hannah was a young girl) and his wife **Ann Fox** who lived in the Tatham Fells. Hannah's sister **Ann Armistead** married **John Dodgson** who farmed at Moor Beck Hall in Claughton. During the 1870s the family moved to farm at the Mearbeck collection of farms, near Long Preston, taking mother Ann Dodgson with them. John and Ann's daughter **Ellen Dodgson** married **Albert Wooler** who had been working as a butler for widow **Elizabeth Preston** at the main Mearbeck House. John and Ann's daughter **Annie Alice Dodgson** remained a spinster. After her parents died Annie Alice worked as a housekeeper to her cousin **Thomas Dodgson**, 26 years her senior, also at Mearbeck. By the time of the 1921 census they had retired together to Station Road, described as 'man and wife' although they didn't marry. They were buried together in *New K7*.

In loving memory of Thomas Dodgson who died Oct 20th 1931, age 76 years. Also Annie Alice his wife who died Dec 2nd 1954, aged 83 years.



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

Settle Graveyard Project

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 Guardian, 2 – Craven Herald, kindly provided by Mike Howarth, 3 – Lancaster Gazette

ph1 – photo kindly provided by John Reid, ph2 – credited to the Back in Settle Facebook site, submitted by Mick Harrison, ph3 – credited to Bill Mitchell's book, Footplate Tales of the Settle-Carlisle Railway, ph4 – credited to the Back in Settle Facebook site, submitted by Mike Howarth, ph5 – credited to Visitcumbria.com, ph7 – with thanks to Mark Rand, ph8 – credited to family relations via Ancestry.co.uk, username [bjon01891](https://www.ancestry.com/#!/bjon01891)

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

STUDENTS' SUCCESS.
Mr. Fred Foxcroft, elder son of Mr. Frank Foxcroft, (Sanitary Surveyor to the Settle Rural District Council) and Mrs. Foxcroft, of Marshfield Road, Settle, has obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in pure science, with honours in mathematics and philosophy. The degree was conferred at the Summer graduation at the University of Glasgow. Mr. Foxcroft won a County minor scholarship from Settle National School, continued his education at Giggleswick School and was awarded a State bursary to Glasgow University. He has not yet attained the age of 21. The

SETTLE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.
THE above-named Council invite tenders for the outside painting at their Isolation Hospital, Harden Bridge, near Austwick. Particulars and Tender Forms can be obtained from Mr. F. Foxcroft, Senior Sanitary Inspector, Town Hall, Settle. Tenders marked "Hospital Painting" should be sent to the undersigned not later than Friday, the 24th October, 1947. The Council do not bind themselves to accept the lowest or any Tender.
D. F. PEACOCK,
Clerk to the Council.
Town Hall, Settle,
September, 1947.

THE HEALTH BILL.
The Senior Sanitary Inspector (Mr. F. Foxcroft), reported that since the previous meeting, three cases of scarlet fever, one of pneumonia, and one of measles had been notified.

COMPLAINTS OF DAMAGE.
The Sanitary Surveyor (Mr. F. Foxcroft) drew attention to damage to, and misuse of, the public conveniences under Settle Town Hall.