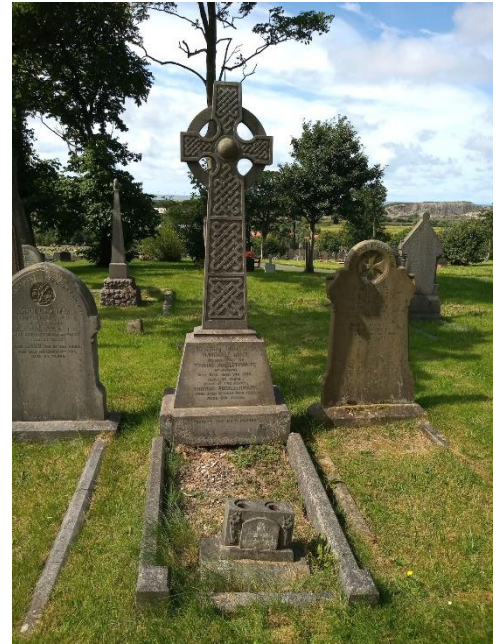


7597 Margaret (and Thomas) Postlethwaite



In Loving Memory of
MARGARET ALICE,
BELOVED WIFE OF
THOMAS POSTLETHWAITE,
OF HAWCOAT
WHO DIED MAY 5TH 1916,
AGED 66 YEARS.
TO WHICH HAS BEEN ADDED
ALSO OF THE ABOVE,
THOMAS POSTLETHWAITE,
WHO DIED MARCH 6TH 1923,
AGED 80 YEARS.

“SAFE IN THY HOLY KEEPING”



The *Barrow News* 13 May 1916 reported:

DEATH OF MRS. POSTLETHWAITE. — We regret to report the death of Mrs. Postlethwaite, the wife of Thos. Postlethwaite, farmer, of Hawcoat village, on Friday, after a long and painful illness from internal cancer. The deceased lady had suffered for upwards of three years, and so long ago as October, 1913, was an inmate of the Barrow Hospital, from which institution she was discharged as being incurable. Since that date she has borne her great anguish with exemplary patience and Christian fortitude. A week prior to her death pneumonia supervened, and the end came peacefully and painlessly at 4.10p.m. on the 5th. On the 2nd of the month she had attained her 66th birthday. Mrs. Postlethwaite belonged to Millom, and at the time of her marriage settled with her husband at the ancestral home of the Postlethwaite's, which dated back to the year 1703. Few women have lived a more active or strenuous life up to the time of her affliction, and she was of a kind-hearted and generous nature, ever ready to assist those less favourably circumstanced than herself. The warmest expressions of sympathy were offered to the bereaved husband and family of five sons and three daughters, all of whom, except the youngest son who is in the United States, were present at the time of her death, and attended her funeral on the Tuesday, May 9th. There was a large gathering of relatives and friends in spite of the heavy downpour of rain. The bearers were the nephews and cousins of the deceased. The Rev. W. Berry, M.A., Vicar of St. Paul's, officiated. Among the chief mourners were Mr. T. Postlethwaite (husband), Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Slater (son and daughter-in-law) (sic), Coun. and Mrs. C. Barben (son-in-law and daughter), Rev. and Mrs. R. V. Postlethwaite (son and daughter-in-law), Messrs. T. E. and J. I. Postlethwaite (sons), Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Grisedale (son-in-law and daughter), Mr. and Mrs. H. Thomas (son-in-law and daughter), Mrs. Hornby and Mrs. Jeffrey (Rossendale), sister and niece (sic), Mrs. M. Slater (sister-in-law), Mrs. Thompson (aunt), Mr. W. Shackley and Mrs. W. Shackley (Ravenglass, cousins), Mr. A. Slater, Mr. and Mrs. T. Woodburn (Pennington), Mr. J. Slater, Miss Slater and Mrs. Edmondson (Kirkby), Messrs. F. J. and T. A. Thompson (Foxfield), all cousins, Messrs. Robert, James and William Postlethwaite (nephews), Mr. Machell (Durham), Mrs. Cook (Foxfield), Mr. Wm. Waiting (the deceased's former master). In addition there were many farmers and neighbours there paying their last tribute of respect whose passing will leave a vacant place in the life of the village. There was a large collection of wreaths and bunches of flowers.

The *Barrow News* 10 March 1923 had various mentions of the death of Mr. Postlethwaite, including the photograph reproduced below.

MR. T. POSTLETHWAITE. — The death took place, on Tuesday, of Mr. Thomas Postlethwaite, farmer, who resided at 50, Hawcoat Village, Barrow. Deceased was well-known and much respected in the district, being of a genial and kindly nature. Until recently he had enjoyed robust health and was remarkably active for his age, being in his 81st year.

Later in the same edition it had:

**OLD FURNESS FARMER
THE LATE MR. T. POSTLETHWAITE,
OF HAWCOAT VILLAGE.**

In the passing away of Mr. Thomas Postlethwaite, in his 81st year, Hawcoat village has lost its oldest native, one of its most interesting personalities, and the Furness district its oldest and one of its most capable farmers. Mr. Postlethwaite was born on December 9th, 1842, the family being traceable in the village for fully three centuries. When only 18 years of age, Mr. Postlethwaite, along with his only brother, who pre-deceased him by 13 years, started farming in a small way under the late Colonel Baldwin, of Dalton. Success attending his efforts, he gradually added to his holding until he became one of the most prominent farmers in the district, and was reputed as a producer of crops both as to bulk and quality. Having continued his farming exploits until his eightieth year, he had the distinction of being the oldest farmer on his own account in the Furness district. For other reasons, too, he held a prominent place in the esteem of a wide circle of friends in the agricultural world.

Mr Postlethwaite did much to encourage others in good ploughmanship by being one of the organisers of the Furness ploughing competition in the eighties. He was frequently called upon to act as judge of those competitions in this district, and in other parts of Lancashire and Westmorland. When he was in his 71st year and the Walney and District ploughing competition arranged a veteran's class for men above 60 years of age, although he had not handled a plough for about ten years, he went into the contest and came out victor, carrying off the first prize and three out of four specials.

Mr. Postlethwaite was pre-deceased by his wife nearly seven years ago, and he is survived by his four sons and three daughters. His oldest son has been a Nonconformist minister in Blackburn for the past 21 years, and his youngest son is a joiner and builder near New York, U.S.A. Of his three daughters, the eldest is the wife of Coun. Barben, the second daughter, Mrs. J. C. Grisedale, lost her husband in the war, and the youngest daughter is the wife of Mr. H. Thomas, of Hawcoat.

The funeral took place yesterday at Barrow Cemetery, and was largely attended. The last rites were conducted by his son, the Rev. R. K. Postlethwaite, and the departed was borne to his last resting place by his nephews, Messrs. Robert, Joseph, James and William, sons of the late Robert Postlethwaite. The chief mourners were Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Slater (son and daughter-in-law) (sic), Coun. and Mrs. Barben (son-in-law and daughter), Rev. and Mrs. R. K. Postlethwaite (son and daughter-in-law), Thomas Edward and James Slater Postlethwaite (sons), Mrs. J. C. Grisedale and "Peggie" (daughter and grand-daughter), Mr. and Mrs. H. Thomas and "Jimmy" (son-in-law and daughter and grandson).

Ancestry gives us the following:

1851 Census has the following living in Hawcoat (no house number): Thomas Postlethwaite (57) Joiner, born Barrow; Betty Postlethwaite (50) born Cartmel, Lancs; Robert Postlethwaite (12) Scholar, born Hawcoat, Lancs.; Thomas Postlethwaite (8) Scholar, born Hawcoat. Another family of Postlethwaite's, headed by John Postlethwaite (47) Joiner, born Hawcoat, lived nearby at High Cocken.



THE LATE MR. T. POSTLETHWAITE,
OF HAWCOAT.
[Photo. by Priest, Barrow.]

In the **1861 Census**, still in Hawcoat without a house number, were living Thomas Postlethwaite (67) Farmer and Joiner, born Dalton (Hawcoat was then in the Parish of Dalton); Elizabeth Postlethwaite (60) born Dalton (sic); Robert Postlethwaite (22) Farmer, born Dalton; Thomas Postlethwaite (18) Farmer, born Dalton. John Postlethwaite and family are still at High Cocken, where he is now a farmer of 35 acres.

The **1871 Census** page is very faint and difficult to read, but at 50 Hawcoat are Thomas Postlethwaite (28) Farmer of 55 acres, born Dalton, Lancs.; Margaret Postlethwaite (24) Farmer's wife, born Millom, Cumberland; Mary Jane Postlethwaite (6 months) born Dalton; and Elizabeth Postlethwaite (70) Widow, Annuitant, born Cartmel, Lancs.

The **1881 Census** has at 50 Hawcoat Thomas Postlethwaite (38) Farmer of 54 acres, born Barrow; wife Margaret Postlethwaite (30) Farmer's Wife, born Millom; children Mary J. Postlethwaite (10) Scholar, born Barrow as were all the following children; Richard Postlethwaite (6) Scholar; Thomas E. Postlethwaite (4); John J. Postlethwaite (2); Elizabeth E. Postlethwaite (4 months). There are also two servants, Robert Postlethwaite (55) Married, Farm servant,

born Barrow – possibly Thomas’ brother; and Ellen Postlethwaite (16) General Domestic servant, born Kirkby Ireleth, Lancs.

By the **1891 Census** Thomas and Margaret, still at 50 Hawcoat, had got six children living with them: Mary Jane Postlethwaite (20) Farm Servant; Richard K. Postlethwaite (17) Farm Servant; Thomas E. Postlethwaite (14) Farm Servant; James S. Postlethwaite (12) Scholar; Henry W. Postlethwaite (8) Scholar; Lizzie A Postlethwaite (4) and Maggie Postlethwaite (1), all born Barrow. John H. Slater (23) Farm servant, born Millom, Cumberland, is living with them, probably Margaret’s brother or nephew.

The **1901 Census** sees Thomas Postlethwaite (58) Farmer, and Margaret Postlethwaite (51) still at 50 Hawcoat. The children still at home are Edward (Thomas above) Postlethwaite (24) Farmer’s Son; James Postlethwaite (22) Farmer’s Son; William Postlethwaite (18) Apprentice Joiner; Annie Postlethwaite (14) no occupation recorded; and Maggie Postlethwaite (11) no occupation recorded. There are two servants: Sydoney (sic) Roberts (25) General Domestic Servant, born Barrow; and George Crowe (22) Agricultural Labourer (Agricultural Horse Teamsman), born Cartmel, Lancs. George could be related to the Crowe’s buried at Dendron, and to be found elsewhere on the Stories Behind the Stones website. Sydoney was apparently the correct spelling: Cumbria BMD repeats it when she marries Thomas J. Eccles at St. Paul, Barrow in 1905.

The final Census entry for Margaret is in the **1911 Census**. The household at 50 Hawcoat is Thomas Postlethwaite (68) Farmer, born Barrow; Margaret Alice Postlethwaite (62) Wife, born Millom. They have been married for 41 years, and had 11 children, 7 still living. Three children are still at home: Thomas Edward Postlethwaite (34) Farmer’s Son Working on Farm; James Slater Postlethwaite (32) Farmer's Son Working on Farm; Maggie Postlethwaite (21) Farmer’s Daughter Dairy Work. There are two servants: William Atkinson (20) Horseman on Farm, born Barrow; and Joseph Armstrong (20) Farm Labourer, born Kendal, Westmorland.

No-one is certain why Edward Sankey took photographs of graves in the period c1910-1920 and later. Were they advertising the skills of his friend William Hull, or later Hull and Fairbairn? Were they to be made into postcards that the bereaved family could send to members who were not able to attend the funeral?

The historic photograph is from the Sankey Family Photographic Collection, courtesy of Cumbria Archives.