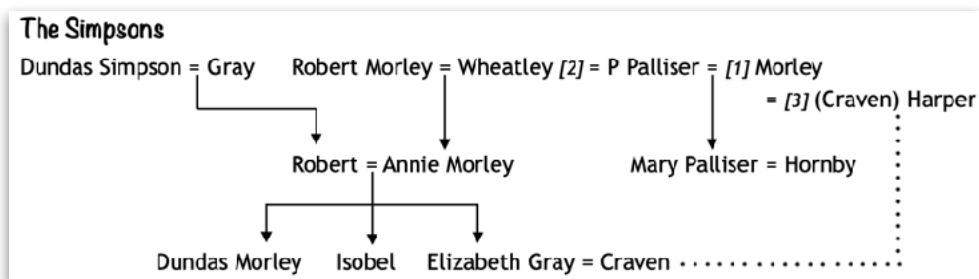


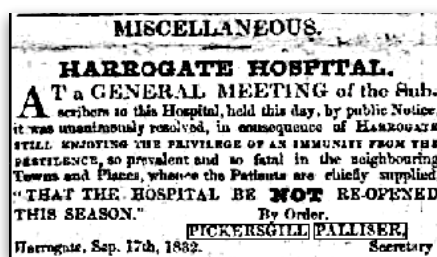
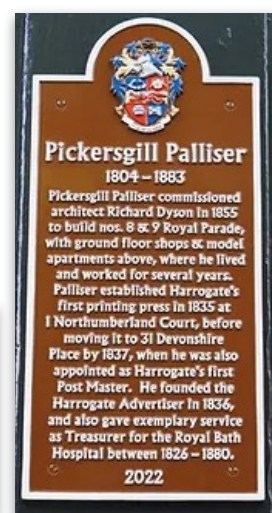
Annie Simpson, surgeon's wife

Robert Simpson was one of several Scottish surgeons to work in Settle. He married **Annie Morley** from Harrogate in 1856 and they came to Settle after the birth of their eldest child, **Elizabeth Gray Simpson**. Annie was the only child of **Robert Morley**, a painter, who died just months after she was born in 1835. Robert Morley was 70 but Annie's mother (and Robert's second wife) **Elizabeth (Wheatley) Morley**, was just 37 at the time. Annie could be related to the Morley ancestors of *Isabella Stubbs*.

At the time of the 1841 census Annie was found in a boarding school in Knaresborough, aged 6, with a **Mary Palliser**, aged 8. In May 1839 widowed Elizabeth had become the second wife of the wonderfully named **Pickersgill Palliser** (son of **James Palliser**, a baker and **Betty Pickersgill**) but she died in December 1840, aged 42, perhaps with childbirth issues? Pickersgill had one surviving child, **Mary Palliser**, from his first marriage to **Mary Morley** (confusingly). Their son, Morley Palliser, died aged three. After Betty's death Mary and Annie were shipped out to a school while Pickersgill married his third wife, a widow **Mary (Craven) Harper**, in November 1841. Little Annie was lucky that her stepfather still cared for her after her mother's death.



Pickersgill Palliser was a busy man. He was a fascinating character whose life is honoured by a brown plaque in Harrogate. He established Harrogate's first printing press in 1835 and created the '*Harrogate Advertiser*' still in business today. Pickersgill became Harrogate's first Postmaster, a post he held for 33 years. He was the secretary and treasurer for the Royal Bath Hospital, now the Harrogate Hilton Majestic Spa Hotel [ph1], from its foundation in 1826 until 1880, 54 years later. The 'hospital' was a spa facility, regarded as having medical benefits, rather than the sort of hospital we recognise today and Pickersgill transformed its profits. In September 1832 Pickersgill announced that, '*in consequence of Harrogate still enjoying the privilege of an immunity to the pestilence so prevalent and so fatal in neighbouring*' communities, the hospital would not be re-opened for the forthcoming season [2]. On Pickersgill's retirement a life-sized portrait of him was hung in the hospital boardroom and he was given a purse of £50. In 1855 Pickersgill commissioned the building of the Parade shops and fine period living apartments, directly opposite the Royal Pump Room entrance [ph2]. The original handwritten deeds still exist. Unsurprisingly local papers (and Wikipedia) celebrate his achievements [3]. It transpired he was also *pioneer of the Harrogate newspaper press, being the proprietor and publisher of the Harrogate Advertiser and was much respected by all classes of the community.*'



committee. He was the pioneer of the Harrogate newspaper press, being the proprietor and publisher of the *Harrogate Advertiser* in September, 1836. Mr Pickersgill was much respected by all classes of the community.



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So, what about young Annie Morley and her half-sister Mary Palliser? They emerged from school as eligible young ladies, suitable to become a wife of a respectable surgeon from Edinburgh. Mary Palliser married **Samuel Hornby**, a successful Harrogate draper, in February 1856 and Annie married Robert Simpson six months later. The Palliser and Hornby gravestones in Grove Road Cemetery, Harrogate leave passers by in no doubt of their importance! Samuel Hornby left a large donation from his enormous estate to the Royal Bath Hospital when he died.



Robert and Annie Simpson moved from Harrogate to Settle, probably to take over the business of the **Burrow brothers**, and may have lived in their business property at the corner of Duke Street and Cheapside, although some researchers indicate the Simpsons lived in the large house, Linton Court, opposite the Golden Lion on Duke Street or at 'Undercliffe' in Duke Street. Robert also worked as surgeon for the workhouse.

In 1863 Robert, fellow surgeon and apothecary **William Altham** and **John Preston**, the innkeeper of the nearby Joiners' Arms, now *Wholesome Bee* were probably paid a decent sum to endorse the work of **Professor Adolph Isaac Siemms**, a Jewish chiropodist originally from Berlin, in removing corns '*without the least pain*'[5]. Professor Siemms had also invented a '*Bunion Cushion, a mechanical desideratum which removes these sensitive and unsightly distortion without any operation.*' Where would we be today without the likes of Prof Siemms! The Professor appeared to operate a successful corn removing business until his death in 1899.

FROM ROBERT SIMPSON, Esq., Surgeon, L.R.C.P.
I have great pleasure in giving my testimony to the skill of Professor Siemms, in the scientific mode he removes corns, &c.
Settle, January 28, 1863. R. SIMPSON.

FROM WILLIAM ALTHAM, Esq., Surgeon, Settle.
Professor Siemms, the Surgeon-Chiropodist, has very skillfully extracted two corns from the sole of my foot, without giving any pain. I can with the greatest confidence recommend him to any one suffering from the same.
January 28, 1863. J. PRESTON.

FROM J. PRESTON, Joiners' Arms Inn, Settle.
Professor Siemms has extracted three corns from my little toe, with great skill and without the least pain.
January 28, 1863. J. PRESTON.

Sadly, Annie died in 1864 upon the birth of their third child, **Dundas Morley Simpson**, (known to the family as **John**!) who survived. She was buried in Settle churchyard with a memorial stone which is showing the signs of age.

Sacred to the memory of Annie, wife of Robert Simpson of Settle who died Sept 29th 1864 aged 29 years, E9.



In 1866 Robert's medical skills were required after an assault on **Ann (Marsden) Towler**, wife of **Bartholomew Towler**. Ann had been attempting to stop a fight between **Joseph Young** and his wife **Elizabeth (Foster) Young**. '*Ann went to the rescue and struck the prisoner with a stocking she had in her hand*' but sustained broken ankle bones after Joseph turned upon her instead. Lovely chap. He blamed alcohol – he was drunk and said didn't know what he was doing.

the prisoner turned upon her and kicked her. She fell to the ground and was so seriously injured that medical assistance was called in, and on Dr. Simpson examining her injuries he found some of the small bones of the ankle to be broken. She had been under the treatment of Dr. Simpson for about a month. Several witnesses were called, who stated that they saw the prisoner dragging his wife in the street by the hair of the head, and who also saw the prisoner kick Mrs. Towler. On the prisoner being

Soon after this, Robert took his three children back to Scotland. Robert died four years later aged 35, so the three children were brought up by their grandfather, **Dundas Simpson**, who lived until he was 94 in Lanarkshire. Dundas (Snr) ran an extremely lucrative business, linking with the South African Exploration and Mining Company. Son Dundas (John) emigrated and made a successful living as an engineer on a gold mine in Denver, USA. Dundas married and had six children although his son, **Morley Dundas Simpson**, died at the age of 17. Robert and Annie's daughter **Isobel Simpson** spent her life working as a governess and then as a housekeeper in the South of England. If any proof were needed that these families remained close, Robert and Annie's daughter **Elizabeth Gray Simpson** married **Thomas Craven**, who just happened to be the nephew of Mary Craven, Pickersgill Palliser's third wife. Thomas Craven made a fortune as a

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merchant for the East India and China companies while Elizabeth ran a training institution/boarding house for students training in domestic service. They had six children.

Robert was replaced as a surgeon by **Edwin Septimus Green** who lived at Linton Court and met a premature and tragic end to his life.



This account has been compiled as part of the Settle Graveyard Project which has recorded gravestone inscriptions, updated church records and researched the lives of those buried. Life stories can be found on 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'

With thanks to Norma Lowery for her help with the compilation of this account.

*The life stories of people with italicised names have been researched as part of the graveyard project
ph1 – credited to tripadvisor.co.uk, ph2 – credited to onthemarket.com*

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1,5 – Lancaster Gazette, 2 – Yorkshire Gazette, 3 – Pateley Bridge and Nidderdale Herald, 4 – Financial News