

Anthony Sharp, at the sharp end of 19th century luck

Anthony Sharp (Snr) was born in 1815 in Settle, the eldest child of **Henry Sharp**, a blacksmith and his wife **Elizabeth Airtou**. In 1835 Anthony married **Ann Lofthouse** from Stainforth and they lived in Stainforth to have five children while Anthony worked as a shopkeeper. Ann died in 1860, aged 44, when the youngest child, another **Anthony Sharp (Jnr)**, was eight. In 1862 Anthony married again, this time to **Mary Newsholme**, the daughter of farmer **George Newsholme** and his first wife **Rebecca Bentley**. George's second wife was **Catherine Buck**, a cousin of **Dr Charles William Buck**. Anthony and Mary had another three sons.

Anthony spent the rest of his life working as a farmer and grocer in Stainforth, living close to the Post Office and the Craven Heifer Inn.

Anthony was a member of the Settle Temperance Society and, in 1855, took part in the performance of the 'Trial of John Barleycorn' in which alcohol is found guilty of ruining peoples' lives [1]. It was performed annually in an attempt to deter young people from drinking. Anthony played the part of the prisoner alongside many other residents of our graveyard including **Peter Skirrow**, **John Lord**, **Thomas Bordley**, **Darius Ineson**, **Francis Twisleton** and **Thomas Leeming**.

Anthony held the post of overseer of the poor for many years, making decisions on the allocation of funds to the poor. At the time of his re-election in 1877 Anthony also lost a 'very valuable mare, in foal' that was found dead in a field [CH]. During the 1850s he was also the Parish Constable for Stainforth in the days before a centralised Police Force. To be appointed, Anthony must have been a tall man.

TEMPERANCE FESTIVAL.—The **Settle** Temperance Society celebrated their annual festival on Christmas Day by a public tea party, and afterwards (in the evening) by the trial of John Barleycorn, alias Strong Drink, in the Mechanics' Hall, which was tastefully decorated. About the usual number of persons sat down to an excellent tea. The trial was witnessed by an extremely crowded court, to which scores of persons were unable to gain admittance from want of room. According to previous arrangements, it was repeated in the evening, when the place was again pretty well filled, the members of the Band of Hope numbering upwards of 200 juveniles, who were admitted free of charge, being present. The principal characters represented were as follow:—Chief Justice, Mr. F. Twisleton; Associate Judges, Messrs. D. Ineson and John Lord; Counsel for the people (M. Scrutiny, Esq.), Mr. John Wood; Counsel for the defence (H. Sensual, Esq.), Roger Bateson; Sheriff, Peter Skirrow; Deputy-Sheriff (Mr. C. Holdfast), T. Bordley; Clerk of the Court, Mr. T. Leeming; Prisoner, **Anthony Sharp**. Several witnesses were examined for and against the prisoner, who was of course ably defended by his counsel, whilst the Attorney-General, who was for the prosecution, pleaded no less earnestly on behalf of the people. Suffice it for us further to say, that, all things considered, the judge, jury, counsel, and witnesses, and in short all who took a part in the trial, with very few exceptions, acquitted themselves most respectably. Some two or three of them certainly did not sustain their parts so admirably as we could have wished, which we attribute almost entirely to the want of practice and proper training. Upwards of £7 was taken for admission, which will be devoted to the funds of the Band of Hope, for their exclusive benefit.

STAINFORTH.

Loss to a Working Man.—During the week a very valuable mare, in foal, belonging to Mr. A. Sharp, was found dead in a field.

Parish Officers.—At the recent annual meeting of magistrates, held at **Settle**, the following were appointed officers for the ensuing year:—Overseers, Mr. **Anthony Sharp** and Mr. **Thomas Swinbank**; Guardians, Mr. **Robert Metcalfe**.

In 1881 there was another wave of foot-and-mouth disease spreading through the Craven

CATTLE DISEASES.

The first case of foot-and-mouth disease in the West Staincliffe Division of the County of York occurred at the end of last week on the farm of Mr John Walker, milk dealer, Sawley. The place where the disease has broken out is called Smithers Bridge, and is situate in the township of Gisburn. Last Thursday only three cows were affected, but on Monday 20, out of a total of 23 animals, were found to be suffering from the disease. At a meeting of the sub-committee held at Settle yesterday the farm was declared an infected place.

At the Settle Petty Sessions yesterday **Anthony Sharp**, farmer, Stainforth, was fined 5s. and 10s. costs, and **Thomas Sharp**, his son, ordered to pay 5s. costs, the former for causing to be removed and the latter for removing a cow on the 19th instant without a license.

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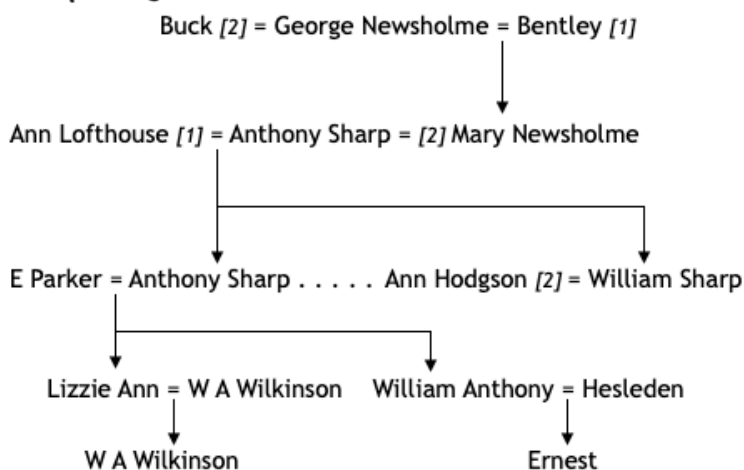
District. Once diagnosed, the treatment was to slaughter all animals at affected farms. For small farmers such as Anthony the slaughter of infected animals could remove their livelihoods and so many were creative in avoiding the regulations. Unfortunately, Anthony and his youngest son Thomas were fined 15 shillings and 5 shillings respectively for removing a cow from the farm without a license [2].

Anthony was buried in Stainforth graveyard with a stone which also commemorated his second wife, Mary, and two unmarried children. He left a generous estate of over £1,000 worth the equivalent of over £130,000 today's value.

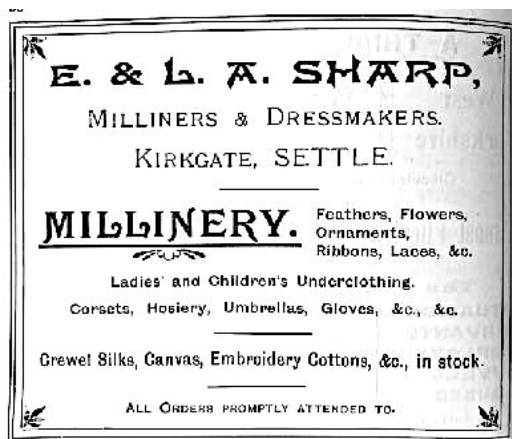
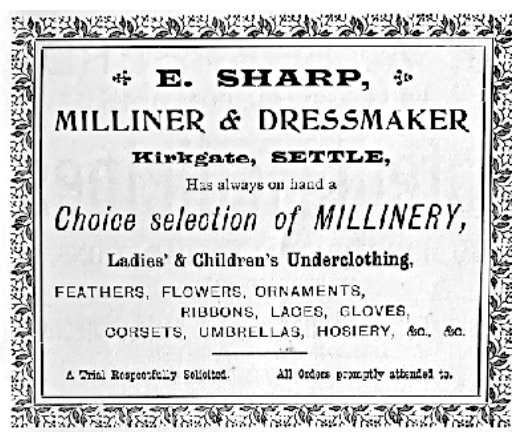


In affectionate remembrance of Anthony Sharp of Stainforth who died November 8th 1891, aged 77 years. Also of Mary, his second wife who died November 25th 1893, aged 71 years. Also of Mary Ann his daughter who died January 13th 1903, aged 54 years. Also of John, their son, who died December 21st 1925, aged 62 years.

Sharp family tree



Several of Anthony's children stayed in farming in the Stainforth area or in Lancashire. Anthony and Ann's youngest son **Anthony**, born in 1852, worked as a labourer. In 1875, in Stainforth, he married **Elizabeth Parker**, a farmer's daughter from Melling near Ingleton. They had a son and a daughter before moving to live in Kirkgate, Settle. Elizabeth, later joined by daughter Lizzie Ann, supplemented the family income by running a dressmaking and millinery business [LSA].



Son **William Anthony Sharp** found employment as a printer, possibly apprenticed to **James Lambert** or the **Wildmans**. In 1903, aged 26, he married **Agnes Hesleden** from Horton-in-Ribblesdale. Her father, **Thomas Hesleden**, was the innkeeper of the Golden Lion in Horton-in-Ribblesdale during the busy years of the building of the Settle and Carlisle Railway. Afterwards he worked as a molecatcher (that's a first in this project!) and then as the Horton sub-postmaster, and his story will follow. William Anthony and Agnes had a son, **Ernest Sharp**, and they settled in Bentham. Ernest also became a printer.

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A year later, in 1904, Anthony and Elizabeth's daughter **Lizzie Ann Sharp** married a tailor, **William Alfred Wilkinson**, a bootmaker's son and they had a daughter **Alice Jane** and a son, another **William Alfred Wilkinson**.

1908 was one of those years Victorians must have been permanently fearful of. On 10 March son William Anthony Sharp, the printer, died in Bentham. On 11 April Anthony's wife Elizabeth died. Two weeks later grandson William Alfred Wilkinson died and on 5 May daughter Lizzie Ann also died.

In Loving Memory of Elizabeth wife of Anthony Sharp died April 11th 1908 aged 54 years. Also of Lizzie Ann their daughter (and wife of W A Wilkinson) Died May 5th 1908 aged 30 years and of William Alfred their son who died in infancy, Old E55

The gravestone is decorated with a rose, typically symbolising 'without sin' or the death of a child. Burial records tell us that



Elizabeth, Lizzie Ann and toddler William Alfred all died of typhoid and it seems likely that son William Anthony also died of typhoid. Within two months Anthony had lost his wife, both children and a grandson. Infectious diseases caused a third of all deaths in the 19th century, but this was particularly harsh luck. Typhoid is horrible. It's caused by the salmonella family of bacteria and, typically, over a period of about three weeks causes severe digestive problems, fever, respiratory problems and, in 20% of cases, death. It is transmitted by contaminated food or water or from symptomless carriers. These days it is routinely treated with water chlorination and antibiotics.

Lizzie Ann's widower, William Alfred Wilkinson, their daughter and his parents and siblings soon emigrated to Canada where William Alfred remarried. Printer William Anthony Sharp's widow, Agnes, remained in Bentham running the printing business with son Ernest. And poor Anthony?

At the time of the next census, Anthony lived with widow **Ann (Hodgson) Sharp** in Accrington who had been the second wife of Anthony's eldest brother, **William Sharp**, who died in 1886. Ann's family had also faced tragedy as three of her seven children had died by then. Let's hope they were happy together. Ann died in 1921 and Anthony came back to Settle and died in 1924, aged 72, living in the Market Place. He was buried in the same plot as his family.



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.

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'.

The lives of people with italicised names have been researched as part of the graveyard project.

Newspaper cuttings with the kind permission of the British Newspaper Archives: 1— Lancaster Guardian, 2 — Yorkshire Post

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CH - with the kind permission of the Craven Herald and Pioneer

*LSA – Lambert's ~Settle Almanac with the kind permission of the North Craven Buildings
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