

Ruth Sharp, bringing botanical knowhow to Settle

Ruth England, born in 1836 in Chapel Allerton in Leeds, was the first child of **George England**, a domestic gardener and his second wife **Jane Cordingley**. In 1860 Ruth married a Leeds plumber, **Thomas Sharp** and they had three sons and two daughters. Ruth was obviously very close to her mother and they lived together or next door to each other in every census return, along with Ruth's brother **Charles England**.

At the time of the 1881 census Ruth's husband, Thomas Sharp was a patient at the Grove Convalescent Hospital in Ilkley [ph1]. This was a superior premises and the first 'convalescent home' in Yorkshire, established in 1862. It housed up to 50 patients who enjoyed lodging, board, medical attendance and baths. After the first three weeks, patients could continue their stay there at a charge of 7 shillings per week. Unfortunately, Thomas died in February 1883, aged 52.



Just a month before, Ruth's mother had died as well. Ruth stayed in Leeds until her last couple of years when she moved to Settle. Ruth's brother, Charles, a stonemason moved to Skipton when their mother died.

Why did Ruth move to Settle? Ruth and Thomas' eldest daughter **Emily Jane Sharp** had married **Joseph Harrison**, a gardener, also from Leeds in 1888. Joseph's first post after their marriage was at Anley in Settle, working for John Birkbeck. However, by the time of the next census Joseph was the nursery manager at Ashfield Nurseries [LSA, ph2], taking over from **Timothy Tooley Green** who moved away when he married his second wife (and cousin). Joseph was remembered in the diaries of **Charles Green**, Timothy's son and also a gardener. "I remember when I came back to Settle to work at Ashfield Nurseries (my father's old place) under Mr Harrison who was the manager for **Thomas Clark** of the firm **Thomas Clark and Sons**. Mr Harrison wanted a man to take over from **Robert Irvine** and I wanted a job.



Mr Harrison
and his staff
at the Ashfield
Nurseries

ASHFIELD NURSERIES, SETTLE. Manager—J. HARRISON.

Wreaths, Crosses & Bouquets on the Shortest Notice.
Plants and Cut Flowers all the year round.
Flower and Vegetable Seeds.
Bedding and Spring Plants in season.

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Settle Graveyard Project

The wage was very small but my house rent was very low. We had returned to our beloved Settle so I was prepared for sacrifice. I stayed with him for 12 years and never had a quarrel. We did not see eye to eye but that happens everywhere. Mr and Mrs Harrison were very kind to me and I knew their business could not afford a large wage. I was doing work in the joinery upstairs and in the greenhouses etc. I repaired mowing machines, wheelbarrows etc. I also did jobbing work in Settle, Giggleswick, Ingleton and Horton. I was known as 'Charley the jobbing gardener' These were happy years."

Joseph also ran a seedsman and florist shop at the top of Kirkgate [ph3]. Joe had the first telephone to be installed in Settle and it could be used by the public.

Joseph and Emily Jane did not have children. They died within a few months of each other in 1941 aged 79 and 80. They are buried in Old F51 with mum Ruth and Emily Jane's spinster sister **Laura Sharp**, a telephone operator who lived with them after their mother had died.



In Loving Memory of Ruth Sharp born Nov 13th 1835. Died April 12th 1905. Peace Perfect Peace. Also of Laura daughter of the above born April 6th 1871, died 11 May 1930, aged 59. Also of Emily beloved wife of Joseph Harrison died January 4th 1941 aged 79 years Peace Perfect Peace. Also Joseph Harrison died May 14th 1941 aged 80 years Rest In Peace, Old F51

Joseph left an estate of £1500 and **Oliver Pumphrey**, the optician who ran his business on the opposite side of Kirkgate, was an executor of the will. Soon after Joseph's death the shop and possessions were sold at an auction at the Wenhaven Cafe, just below the Royal Oak Inn. Joseph and Emily Jane had owned two 3-piece suites, a sideboard with Jacobean pattern, walnut piano and corner cupboard amongst more usual furnishings [1].

SETTLE, YORKSHIRE.

To be sold by Auction by
RICHARD TURNER & SON
at the Wenhaven Cafe, on Thursday, 3rd July, 1931, at 1.30 o'clock in the afternoon precisely, subject to the General Sale Conditions of 1934

CONVENIENT Dwelling House with Shop and Premises situated in the centre of the Market Place, Settle. As in the occupation of the representative of the late Mr. **Joseph Harrison**, Florist.
Possession will be given on completion.
For further particulars apply to the Auctioneers, Bentham, or to
E. H. VANT,
Solicitors, Settle

Immediately afterwards will be sold the whole of the Furniture, Shop Fittings, etc.; 2 3-piece Suites, Sideboard (Jacobean pattern), Overstrung Pianoforte in walnut by E. Hirst and Co. Walnut Corner Cupboard, Brass Mounted and other Bedsteads, Chests of Drawers, Bedding, Dining Tables, etc. Shop Counters, 3 Nests of Drawers, Show Scales, Show Cases, Flower Vases, etc.



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

Settle Graveyard 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

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

ph1 – photo credited to historic-hospitals.com, ph2 – the diaries of Charles Green kindly provided by North Craven Buildings Preservation Trust, ph3 – credited to Bill Mitchell's 'How they used to live in Old Settle', via John Reid.

LSA – Lambert's ~Settle Almanac kindly provided by John Reid