

PC Charles Wright

In loving memory of Sarah Caroline Winifred beloved wife of Charles Wright who fell asleep Jan 22 1918 aged 50 years. Thy will be done. Also Charles Wright died July 29th 1932 aged 69 years

Also John W. Hartley son-in-law died Jan 11th 1947 aged 64 years. Ruth Winifred G. Hartley daughter died Nov 9th 1972 aged 82 years. Also John Charles Hartley 1921-1984. Caroline W. Baines grand-daughter 1920-1992, Old G55

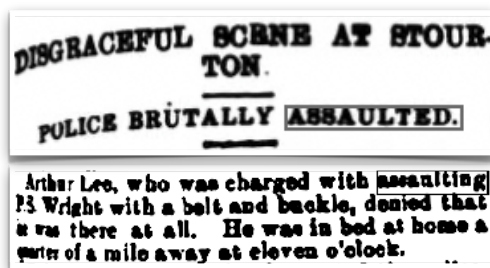


This beautiful marble stone commemorates the lives of Charles Wright and his wife Sarah Caroline Winifred Wright, their daughter Ruth Winifred Wright and her husband, John William Hartley, and also John and Ruth's children John Charles Hartley and Caroline Winifred (Hartley) Baines. However, it only contains the bodies of Charles and Sarah Caroline and their son-in-law John William. Perhaps the cremated remains of the others are with them?

Who were the Wright family?

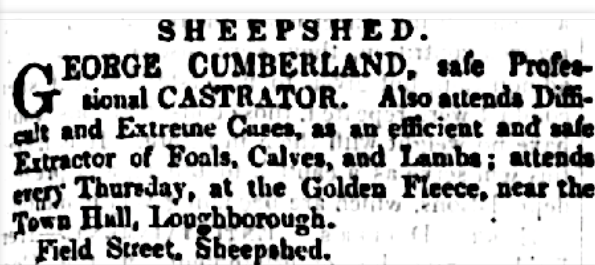
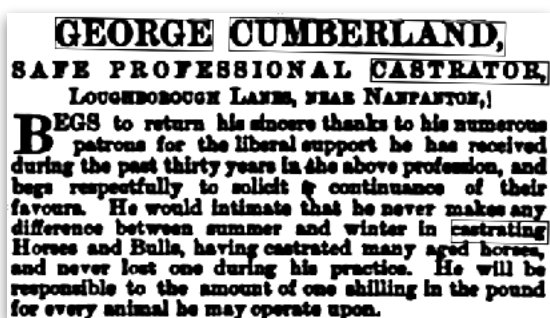
Charles Wright was one of nine children of William Wright, a carpenter and his wife Phoebe Jane Shaw who lived in Lincolnshire and, later, in Nottinghamshire. Siblings had a variety of working class occupations but Charles decided to join the Police Force, aged 23. Charles' police records describe he was 5ft 10½ inches (very tall for those days) with brown hair and grey eyes. He worked as a grocer with his brother George Henry Wright in Nottingham before he signed up. Charles had a good police record, being regularly promoted as he worked in Keighley, Upper Agbrigg (Huddersfield), Skyrack (Headingley, Leeds), Osgoldcross, (Pontefract) and then over to Settle by 1909.

Whilst in South Leeds, in 1901, Charles was severely assaulted [1]. Charles was on duty with PCs Crowe and Beevers and they had been called to a disturbance just below the Stourton Hotel. His assailants were Charlotte and Fanny Farrer, both married women and Arthur Lee who denied he was there at all. They were all found guilty and Arthur Lee was ordered to pay £5, and Fanny Farrer 10 shillings and costs. In 1908 Charles was thrown from his bicycle and injured his left thigh. In his forties, Charles' brother, George Henry Wright, also became a police officer in Derbyshire.



*20 July 1901 Severely assaulted at Stourton.
30 Jan 1908 Thrown from Bicycle & injured left thigh (1119)*

Charles had married Sarah Caroline Winifred Cumberland a couple of years before he signed up. She was the daughter of George Cumberland and his second wife, Hannah Proudman, who lived in Leicestershire. George began his life working as a farmer but then developed a specialism as a



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'safe, professional castrator', working with horses and bulls, never having lost one during the thirty years of his practice. Well, that's a first! He travelled around several local inns offering his services [2]. As part of this work he also helped with 'difficult and extreme cases as an efficient extractor of foals, calves and lambs.' [3] In the days before regulated veterinary services George would have been a busy man. He also gave evidence at trials about deaths of animals.

George had four daughters with his first wife, **Elizabeth North**, and another six daughters with second wife Hannah, born over a period of 25 years. There's something interesting about a castrator having ten daughters!! Eldest daughter, **Sarah Cumberland**, married **George Field**, a butcher and had a son, another **George Field (Jnr)**, who married Sarah's younger sister, his aunt, **Marion Cumberland** — they were the same age. That's quite close genetically but they had six children, five of whom survived to adulthood. George and Hannah's eldest daughter, **Ellen Georgina Ruth Proudman Cumberland**, one of two daughters born before they married, married **William Hutchinson Cooper**. Ellen and William spent their lives running the Queen's Head in Measham, Derbyshire. After William died Ellen took over the Old George Inn in Ashby-de-la-Zouch which was operating until just a couple of years ago [ph1].



Sarah Caroline died in 1918, aged 50 and Charles followed 14 years later, aged 69. Three months after Charles' death in July 1932, **Rev Twemlow** wrote in the Parish Magazine [ph2] that for the past eight years he had received 'a barrage of anonymous postcards directed against me and my friend the late Charles Wright.' He wrote that Charles took them 'very much to heart, even going so far as to say that he would leave Settle.' In the end Rev Twemlow confronted **Thomas Tomlinson**, the stationer on the corner of Duke Street and Station Road, and came to some sort of gentleman's agreement. What was that all about then? Thomas died the following year, aged 76.

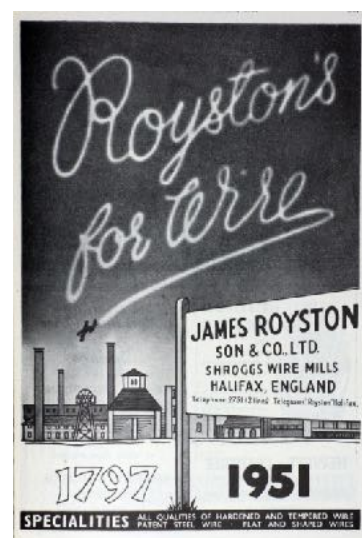
AN UNDERSTANDING. Immediately after our Annual Parochial Meeting at the end of February there came into being a kind of barrage of anonymous post cards chiefly directed against me and my friend the late Charles Wright. For the past eight years I have had such communications at odd intervals and have taken no notice of them. With my friend *Sergt. Wright* it was otherwise, he took them very much to heart, even going so far as to say that he would leave Settle. For my friend's sake I, therefore, did all in my power to discover the author of the writings. As the result of a great deal of unpleasantness and unhappiness, I met *Mr. T. Tomlinson*, of Duke Street, on Wednesday, Sept. 14th, at 3-30 p.m., at the office of *Mr. Peacock* (who was present as a friendly umpire and in no way in his professional capacity as a lawyer). After much talking I said "all this talking is leading us nowhere, we are not getting at anything definite. I'll

tell you what I am ready to do seeing that *Sergt. Wright* is no longer with us, if *Mr. Tomlinson* will take his solemn oath before *Mr. Peacock* that he never at any time wrote any letter or post card anonymously to me, then I will frankly say that I am sorry for having in any way suspected him." *Mr. Tomlinson* readily agreed to this and upon oath said that he had never written any anonymous communications to me. We then shook hands and the matter ended. I have read this statement to *Mr. Tomlinson* before sending it to the printers and he agrees with all that I have said.

T. F. BROWBILL TWEMLOW, Vicar.

Charles and Sarah Caroline Winifred Wright had five children although two sons died in infancy. Daughter **Ruth Winifred Gwendoline Wright** married **John Willie Hartley** from Halifax. He had previously worked for **Royston and Sons** steel wire manufacturer based at Shrug's Mill, Halifax [ph3]. That company had previously made a large portion of the wire required for the first Atlantic cable. In 1907 John Willie joined the Police Force and was posted to the Settle area. Later he was posted to Skipton and then retired to Halifax. John Willie was buried back in Settle with Ruth's parents.

Charles and Sarah's daughter **Norah Irene Wright** married **John Stanley Holdsworth** who worked in textiles. Norah died in 1934, aged 38 and is buried in the unmarked *New KX16*. John moved away with their two daughters, remarried and became an inspector within the textiles industry.



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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.

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 – Skyjack Courier, 2 – Hinckley News, 3 – Loughborough Monitor

ph1 – credited to [what pub.com](http://whatpub.com), ph2 – Parish Magazine, with thanks to Roger Taylor, ph3 – credited to Grace's Guide to British industrial History at [graces guide.co.uk](http://gracesguide.co.uk)