

Private Samuel Sharp

(Before 19th May 1822 – After 20th November 1854)

7th Foot (Royal Fuseliers)

Crimean War

Samuel Sharp was a soldier with in the 7th Foot (Royal Fuseliers) who fought and died in the Crimean War. But his origins were in West Yorkshire and his name appears on a memorial in St Matthew's Churchyard, Lightcliffe.

His parents were John Sharp and Hannah Baines who married on 20th May 1810 in St John the Baptist church, Halifax. They named the first of their nine children William Baines Sharp and had him christened at St Matthew's Church, Lightcliffe on 14th April 1811. Then followed Emma who was christened on 2nd May 1813, Frances christened on 26th March 1815 and Mark christened on 25th May 1817 all at St Matthew's.

The next children to be born were twin boys Joseph and Samuel who were again christened at St Matthews's on 19th May 1822. Their baptism record gives their abode as Norwood Green and father's trade as Coal Miner. Three more girl christenings at Lightcliffe completed this family of nine. Harriet christened on 9th May 1824, Hannah christened on 21st January 1827 and finally Mary christened 19th July 1829

The eldest son William Baines Sharp died on 20th November 1833 and was buried in St Matthew's churchyard on 24th November in plot EE3. His is the first name on the memorial. By the 1841 census only the three surviving sons and the youngest daughter, Mary are at home in Bramley Lane, Norwood Green with their parents. Father John was still a "Coal Miner" as were Mark aged 20 and 15 year old Sam; Sam's his twin brother Joseph was a "Male Servant".

Mother Hannah Sharp was not at home on the night of the 1851 census instead she was a "Nurse" at the house of a Holdsworth family - at Hartside cum Clifton - where there was a 2 week old baby. But father John Sharp, still a "Coal Miner", was not alone as he had his 23 year old daughter Hannah with him; she was a "Power Loom Weaver".

Samuel Sharp was a "Private" stationed in Portsmouth with lots of other "Privates" in 1851. In 1853 his father John Sharp passed away on 27th September and was buried on 2nd October in St Matthew's churchyard, Lightcliffe in the same grave as his eldest son William Baines Sharp.

Detailed accounts of what the 7th Foot (Royal Fusiliers) did in the Crimean War can be looked up. But on Sunday 5th November 1854 they were involved in the Second Battle of Inkermann. One regimental account even records that:-

The 7th Royal Fusiliers were the first regiment to have hospital huts, and this was due to the tireless work of Colonel Yeo, for the benefit of his officer's and men.

But this did not prevent them losing 5 officers and 62 men in this one battle among them Samuel Sharp. It was recorded that :

Sharpe Samuel Private 1694 7th Foot (Royal Fusiliers)
Severe Wound Second Battle of Inkermann 05 November 1854

His name was added to the family memorial; plot EE3, in St Matthew's churchyard, Lightcliffe.

His mother Hannah died on 3rd June 1858 aged 71 years and she too was buried in St Matthew's Churchyard on 8th June.

Twin brother Joseph Sharp of Lydgate died on 18th July 1864 aged 43 years (the burial record and memorial inscription disagree) and was buried on 20th July 1864

*In memory of William Baines Sharp
the son of JOHN and HANNAH SHARP of Bramley Lane
who departed this life November 20th 1833 aged 22 years.*

*Also of the above named JOHN SHARP
who departed this life September 27th 1853 aged 68 years.*

*Also of HANNAH wife of the above
who departed this life June 3rd 1858 aged 71 years.*

*Also of JOSEPH son of the above
who died July 18th 1864 aged 42 years.*

*Also SAMUEL twin brother of the above
killed in the Crimean War 1854.*

D.M.Barker
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