

**Joseph Wright (1818-1885) Notes by David Neave, November 2014**

Born at Hessle in 1818, the son of Thomas and Margaret Wright. (Baptised 7 Feb 1818). His father was probably the Thomas Wright who in 1823 had the Ship Inn at Hessle Ferry. Joseph Wright married Ann Watson Everingham (b. 1814) at North Cave in 1844, she was the daughter of Samuel and Mary Everingham of North Cave. Ann died in 1848.

In 1851 the Census Returns record Joseph Wright as a joiner living at North Cave. He was a widower living with his mother Margaret, and two daughters Maria, aged 5 and Ann Eliza aged 3. He is also recorded as lodging at 16 Egginton Street, Hull. Ten years later in April 1861 he was an architect's assistant living at 3 Fenton Street, Leeds with his mother Margaret, acting as housekeeper, and two teenage daughters Maria E and Ann E. He was presumably Leeds based assisting with the building of the Corn Exchange and Mechanics' Institute designed by Cuthbert Brodrick. (Linstrum, *Towers and Colonnades*, 143)

In August 1861, as 'late assistant to Mr Cuthbert Brodrick' he is advertising for 'a respectable youth wishing to acquire a knowledge of the profession'. (*Hull Packet*, 30 Aug. 1861) His offices were then in Post Office Chambers, Whitefriargate, Hull. By March 1863 when he advertised for an assistant his offices were at Bank Chambers, Scale Lane, Hull (*Leeds Mercury*, 7 March 1863)

When and how Joseph Wright progressed from being a joiner to an architectural assistant of Brodrick is unknown. He was practicing as an architect independently by 1857 but retained links with Brodrick. In 1867 he was the architect overseeing the building of Yokefleet Hall for J.H. Empson to designs by Cuthbert Brodrick. (*Hull Packet* 1 Nov. 1867)

In 1871 Joseph Wright was living at 3 Wright Street, Hull with his unmarried daughter Ann Elizabeth, who had been born at North Cave in 1848. She married A.M. Graham of Leeds in December 1872. (*Hull Packet*, 10 Jan, 1873) He had retired by 1881 when he was living at 2 Abbey Villas, Grimsby with his daughter Maria and her husband Revd Robert Harrison, a Primitive Methodist minister. [Census]

Joseph Wright died 1885 and was buried in the 'Primitive Methodist' corner of Spring Bank Cemetery. The inscription on his grave is as follows:

*In loving memory of Joseph Wright of this town/Architect/who departed this life/January 9<sup>th</sup> 1885/aged 66 years/His last words - 'It's well'/ also his wife/Ann Watson, who is interred in the family vault within the Parish Church, North Cave. (Chris Ketchell, 1983)*

He was a Primitive Methodist and he is known to have designed at least 35 Primitive Methodist Chapels between 1857 and 1877. Most were Italianate in style but at least two in Hull, Bourne Chapel, Anlaby Road and Emmanuel, Stoneferry were Gothic.