

The Riley, Seal and Rumsey families – their connection with Woodlands, Chaveney Road

This postcard is a lovely picture in itself and was taken on a snowy winter's day on 30th of December 1908 in Quorn. The location is fairly easy to identify even today. It is taken on High Street, looking towards Loughborough. The tall house on the right is number 27 High Street, which not so many years ago was a newsagents. In the middle distance (a few houses to the left of 27 High Street) can be seen the old cottages (now demolished) which formed 'The Banks'.

The postcard is post marked 1st February 1909 and is addressed to R. W. Parker Esq, 28 Glamorgan St, Victoria, London, S10. The message reads:

"I am afraid our good wishes for the new year are rather late, but we most sincerely hope you have a happy one. We are sending you two old friends to look at. Have been waiting for them to be finished, the man was taken ill directly after taking them. Small wonder I can hear you say! Hope you and all your people are keeping well. Lilian sends her kindest regards. With all good wishes, yrs very sincerely E Riley"

The photographer was William Shuttlewood, who lived

in Quorn from about 1904 to 1909, and ran the chemist's shop on High Street where James Alvey (the hairdresser) is now. He was obviously the poor soul who was taken ill in early 1909. You can read his full story elsewhere.

The two ladies were sisters, Edith and Lillian Riley. Lillian (on the right) was born on 15th November 1886, so was 22 when this photograph was taken. Edith was 31.

In 1901 the sisters were living at 55 Welford Road, Leicester with their father Samuel (a picture frame maker - employee), mother Jane, elder sister Florence (teacher) and younger brother Errol. Between 1903 and 1905, their eldest sister Ellen, who was married to a Frederick Seal, had a child, Jack, who died when he was still a small baby. At some point shortly after this, they moved to 'Woodlands' Quorn, with Ellen and Frederick



Seal in one house, and her parents and Riley siblings in the other. Woodlands, which are two houses - and are now 79 and 81 Chaveney Road, although at the beginning they were joined by a veranda on the first floor. Current and period pictures are shown on the previous page.

The Riley's (Samuel and Jane) and their children that were still at home, lived in the left-hand side of Woodlands (now no 81). Ellen and Frederick Seal lived in the right-hand side (now no 79). Ellen and Frederick went on to have Kathleen Edith (1905), Errol Jack Farran (1906) and Kenneth George (1909). Sadly Kenneth died in 1914. By this time Ellen's parents had also died and Ellen and Frederick moved to Thurcaston before finally returning to Leicester (Westleigh Road).

On 27th June 1911, Lillian Riley (aged 24 and a teacher) married the vicar of Quorn, Henry Hunn Rumsey (aged 34). On the right is a picture of their wedding.

Henry and Lillian had six children. According to people in the village, after the fifth child, Lillian was advised not to have any more children. She went on to have Philip and sadly died when he was six months old. Their children were:

- Mary – Who later became a nun
- Stephen – Who became the Vicar of Whetstone
- John
- Peter Frederick – Peter was killed in WW2 aged 24 and his name can be seen on the war memorial in Quorn
- Dorothy – Dorothy was slightly handicapped and died aged 19
- Philip - who was born in March 1921, he was approx 6 months old when Lillian died.

The photograph below was taken very shortly before Lillian died. She is seated with Phillip on her knee. Her sister Edith is sitting with Dorothy. Edith, who was still unmarried, stepped into the breach after Lillian died. 'Aunty Edith' (also known in the family as Dee Dee), brought the children up and was a well known figure in the village. She was very kindly and walked with two sticks.



Henry Hunn Rumsey was the vicar of Quorn from 1909 until his death aged 63 in 1940.

Plot CH32 by the Church bell tower in the Parish Church records in stone: Lillian wife of Henry Hunn Rumsey 15th November 1886 to 18th September 1921. A dearly loved daughter, sister, wife, mother. Jesu mercy. Also Henry Hunn Rumsey priest vicar of this parish 1909 -1940 aged 63 years. Peter Frederick 1917 -1941. Dorothy 1919 - 1938.

Henry had wanted Lillian buried by the entrance to the bell tower so that he

could pass by and say hello to her every day.

Lillian and Edith's parents (Samuel and Jane) are also buried in the Parish Churchyard in Plot C62: Samuel Riley born 27th May 1847 died 10th Feb 1910 age 62, Jane Riley born 2nd April 1850 died 20th Jan 1913 age 62.



On the left is a photograph (postcard) of Henry, Aunt Edith and the children taken outside the vicarage in Quorn.

Left to right -
Top: Edith Riley, John, Mary, Stephen, Murray (Henry's brother).
Middle: Henry, Peter
Bottom: Phillip, Dorothy