

Alfred Fretwell Mayking



Although the 1841 census listed Alfred as having been born in Leeds, the 1851 census has him as having been born in Nottingham – very confusing. We do know that he was born about 1830 and was given a special mention in his great-uncle's will as a minor and the recipient of £50. However he would not live long enough to benefit from his portion of the Talbot Estate capital.

At home in 1841 as a young boy of 11ⁱ, the 1851 census finds him as a lodger with a Wilkinson household at Healey's Buildings, Dewsbury Road. Like his father before him, Alfred is a painter, but at this stage we are not sure what type of painter.[#] This will be made clearer later.

George Wilkinson	41	Warehouseman	Leeds
Esther Wilkinson	40		Leeds
William H Wilkinson	21	Painter	Leeds
Eliza Wilkinson	14		Leeds
Eleanor Wilkinson	11	Scholar	Leeds
Alfred Maykin (sic)(Lodger)	21	Painter	Nottingham

Alfred's next 'appearance' is the record of his marriage, in York in 1856, to Mary Ann Holmes. Apart from the name of her father, John, not much is known at this stage about Mary Ann, but she is likely to have been the visitor at the Waind (?) household at 17 Clarence Street, York, on 30th March 1851.[#]

Thomas Waind	39	Tailor	York
Elizabeth Waind	37		York
Caroline S Ann Waind	10	Scholar	York
William Waind	8	Scholar	York
Martha Waind	5	Scholar	York
Mary Ann Holmes (Visitor)	19		York

In 1861 Alfred and his young wife Mary Ann were living in Micklegate, York, at 15 Spencer Street. Finding them proved particularly difficult, particularly as the census transcriber had their surname as Maykin and had put Alfred's place of birth as Mansfield Wiltshire! However, found they are, and from this record we find that Alfred is a painter of locomotives.^v

Alfred Maykin	30	Engine Painter	Mansfield, Nottinghamshire
Mary Ann Maykin	29		York

At this stage there are no children listed, nor were there any recorded for the 1871 census. It is from this record that we find out that Alfred's middle name is Fretwell. He and Mary Ann are still at Micklegate but have moved to 5 Mount Parade.^v

Alfred Fretwell Mayking	40	Engine Painter	Mansfield, Nottinghamshire
Mary Ann Mayking	39	Engine Painter's Wife	York
Annie Hartley	14	General Servant Domestic	Sheffield
John Thomas Turton (Lodger)	19	Barrister's Clerk	Collingham, Nottinghamshire

This was to be Alfred's last census. Like his parents he died young. His death at home on 14th January 1878 at the age of 47 was from cardiac disease and Anasarca (generalised massive edema (swelling) - generalised dropsy). The informant, present at the death, was one Francis Smith and Robert Rose, Surgeon, certified the death.^v

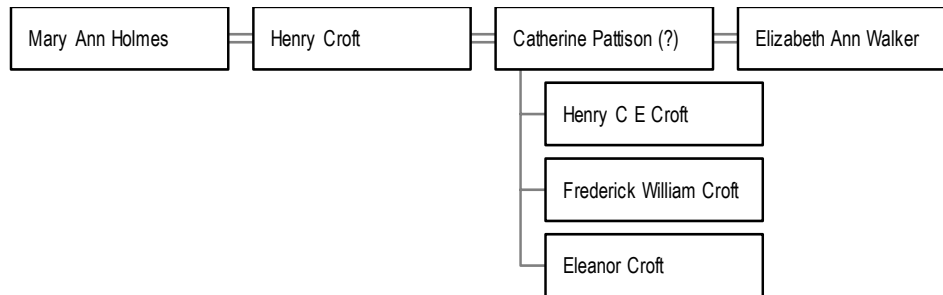
If there is scant documentation for the Maykings, it has been possible to construct a possible picture of Mary Ann's life after Alfred's death. After about three years of widowhood, on 21st February 1881, following the calling of banns, Mary Ann remarried. Her new husband, four years younger than her, was a 45 year old widower, Henry Croft who was a tailor by profession. The wedding was held in St Mary's Church in the parish of Bishophill, York, and conducted by the vicar, S.H. Bennett. Henry's father was recorded at Richard Croft, also a tailor and, as previously noted Mary Ann's father was John Holmes, who was a printer by profession. The ceremony was witnessed by Joseph Walker Milburn and Sarah Milburn, one of Mary Ann's younger sisters. At the time of the wedding Henry was living at 28 Trinity Lane and Mary Ann's residence was 5 Mount Parade.^{vii}

Within a few weeks of their wedding the 1881 census was conducted. Mary Ann and her late husband Alfred had, as far as is known, no children. By marrying Henry she acquired a ready made family and it seems that

they all moved in with her at Mount Parade after she and their father married.^{vii}

Henry Croft	45	Tailor	Strensall, Yorkshire
Mary Ann Croft	49	Tailor's Wife	York
Henry W Croft	19	Apprentice	York
Elenor Croft	17	Assisting at Home	York
Frederick W Croft	14	Apprentice	York
Charles J Ashby (Lodger)	18	Mechanical Engineer	Middlesex
Edmund J D B Mackay (Lodger)	25	Undergraduate at St Catherine's College Cambridge	Scotland

A little delving has unearthed some further information about Henry Croft. I do not know if Mary Ann had any qualms when she married him, but she was wife number three, the first two having died within ten years of their marriages to Henry.



His first wife was probably Catherine Pattison^{viii} whom he married towards the end of 1860 and who is recorded in the 1861 census as living in Layerthorpe in the Monk ward of York.^x

Henry Croft	26	Tailor	Strensall, Yorkshire
Catherine Croft	26	Milliner and Dressmaker	York
George Croft	20	Bootmaker	Easingwold, Yorkshire

By the next census there is a new wife and a new address, 40a Goodramgate, but still in the Monk Ward.^{xi}

Henry Croft	35	Tailor	Strensall, Yorkshire
Elizabeth A Croft	33		York
Henry C E Croft	9	Scholar	York
Eleanor Croft	7	Scholar	York
Frederick Wm Croft	4		York

Wife number one, Catherine, would appear to have died in late 1869 when she was only 34, and a marriage registered at York for the 1871 Jul-Sep quarter between a Henry Croft and Elizabeth Ann Walker, is most likely Henry's second marriage. Given the year of the marriage, the four children listed with Henry and Elizabeth Ann would have been born to Catherine.^{xii} Elizabeth died six years later, aged 40, in 1877 and it does not appear that she and Henry had any children of their own.^{xiii}

With wife number three the tables were turned and in this instance it was the husband who died relatively early in the marriage. Henry's death, at age 54, was registered in York for the Jul-Sep quarter of 1889.^{xiv} So once again Mary Ann found herself a widow, and this was her status up to her death. But before that event, she has been located in both the 1891 and the 1901 census returns.

Two years into her widowhood Mary Ann is residing at 15 Victor Place in the Castlegate area of York. With her is her unmarried step-son Frederick William Croft, referred to in the census as "son".^{xv}

Mary Ann Croft (W)	59	Retired Publican	St Martin le Grand, York
Frederick Wm Croft	24	Compositor	St Mary Castlegate, York
Hannah Smith (Lodger)(M)	42		St Cuthbert, York
Francis Smith (Lodger)(M)	47	Goods Porter	Chesterfield, Derbyshire
George Henry Smith(Lodger)	16	Goods Clerk	Durham

How long Mary was a publican is not known. When she married Henry he was a tailor. It may be that he gave up tailoring and the pair was partners in running a pub. Or Mary Ann may have taken on that job after her husband died. If the lodgers were long-term, perhaps they contributed sufficiently for Mary Ann not to need to work outside the home.

It is from the 1901 census that we learn that one of Mary Ann's sisters, Sarah, married a Millburn, and it was this Sarah that we found as a witness for Mary Ann's marriage to Henry. Both women are widows and living on

their own means, at 17 Grange Street, Walmgate, York.^{xvi}

Sarah Milburn (W)	53	Living on own means	York
Henry L Milburn	27	Accountants Clerk	York
Edwin W Milburn	25	Insurance Clerk	York
George A Milburn	18	Mechanical Engineer	York
Alice M Milburn	15	Goods Porter	York
Hilda Milburn	13	At school	York
Mary A Croft (Sister)(W)	69	Living on own means	York.

While not confirmed, I have only found one possible death record for Mary Ann Croft – a registration in Fylde district of Lancashire (near Blackpool) for the Apr-Jun quarter of 1910. If this is our Mary Ann, she lived to the respectable age of 78.



ⁱ HO107/1346/10/~F20-21.

ⁱⁱ HO107/2317/p11.

ⁱⁱⁱ HO107/2353/p32.

^{iv} RG9/3549/p80.

^v RG10/4747/p16.

^{vi} Certified copy of Death Certificate DYB190131.

^{vii} Certified copy of Marriage Certificate MXC823223.

^{viii} RG11/4719/p13. Note however that in 1861 Mary Ann was at 4 Mount Parade and in 1871 it was listed as 5 Mount Parade, so it may not have been the same residence but one next door or across the road.

^{ix} Free BMD Marriage Index.

^x RG9/3551/p17.

^{xi} RG10/4745/p15.

^{xii} Free BMD Death Index; Free BMD Marriage Index.

^{xiii} Free BMD Death Index

^{xiv} Free BMD Death Index.

^{xv} RG12/3888/p25.

^{xvi} RG13/4448/p19.