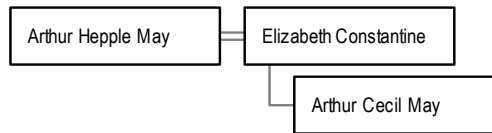


Arthur Hepple May



Arthur was very much the baby of the family, being born some twenty three years after his oldest sibling, Mary Jane. Arthur's birth was registered in the last quarter of 1875, in the Bedale district. He took his middle name from the maiden name of his mother Rebecca. He was only 5 years old when his father died in 1880 so his memories of him may have been hazy. The responsibility for his upbringing fell to his mother (assisted presumably by the older children). Arthur was at home in 1881, and again in 1891, by which time he was a 15 year old working as a gardener, presumably in the Hope Nursery.ⁱ

As for his older brothers, it is likely that the family business, the Hope Nursery, could not support so many qualified sons. On the other hand Arthur may just have wanted to spread his wings and see something of the world outside the Burneston area. Whatever may have spurred him to move, by 1901 he was at Cheadle, Stockport, just south of Manchester. But just before he made the move he married a girl from a well established local family, and she was with him at 128 Wilmslow(?) Road in the civil parish of Stockport Etchells.

Arthur Hepple May	25	Nursery Foreman	Burneston
Elizabeth May	23		Burneston
Arthur Cecil May	6mths		Keighley, Yorks

I am not sure why, Arthur Cecil was born in Keighley, out of the couple's 'home' country and also not that close to Stockport. It may have had something to do with maths. Arthur Hepple May married Elizabeth Constantine in the Bedale district some time in the April to June quarter of 1900. The birth of their son was registered in the October to December of that same year. Perhaps Elizabeth had a relation living at Keighley and stopped there to have her son before moving on to Stockport. But this is, of course, only guesswork.ⁱⁱ

What is more definite is Elizabeth's provenance, but even this has been a bit difficult to follow given the very limited range of first names given to the various male Constantines living in the same area and the fact that there were at least two daughters named Elizabeth born to these Constantines. After some sleuthing, I think I have worked out the relationships, and who Elizabeth May (née Constantine) 'belonged' to.

Based on the common occupation of Mason, I believe that Elizabeth's paternal grandfather was Thomas Constantine, born about 1813 at Patrick Brompton, and who appeared as follows in the 1841 census, living in the village of Newton le Willows with his wife Ann and daughter, also called Ann, both of whom were born in Yorkshire.ⁱⁱⁱ

Thos Constantine	25	Mason
Ann Constantine	30	
Ann Constantine	1	

Taking into account the age rounding of adults for the 1841 census, and the more accurate date of birth for Thomas and Ann in the 1851 census, they are probably the couple recorded in the IGI as marrying at Patrick Brompton on 18th January 1834.^{iv} Hiding behind the name Constantone, the family has been located in the 1851 census, still living in Newton le Willows, and it is here that Elizabeth's father Thomas and uncle John make their first entry in the census records. Apart from the other children born to Thomas S^{nr} and his wife Ann, a daughter Elizabeth, who was not listed with them for the 1841 census now appears.^v

Thomas Constantine	38	Mason	Leyburn Le Willows
Ann Constantine	43		Newton le Willows
Elizabeth Constantine	15		Newton le Willows
Ann Constantine	11		Newton le Willows
John Constantine	9	Scholar	Newton le Willows
Hannah Constantine	6	Scholar	Newton le Willows
Thomas Constantine	4	Scholar	Newton le Willows
George Constantine	1		Newton le Willows

Making things even more frustrating, for the 1861 census the family's name is transcribed as Const?? and they were only found by doing a search on Newton le Willows.^{vi}

Thomas Constantine	48	Mason	Finghall*
Ann Constantine	53		Newton le Willows

John Constantine	19	Mason	Newton le Willows
Hannah Constantine	16	Scholar	Newton le Willows
Thomas Constantine	14	Mason	Newton le Willows
George Constantine	11	Scholar	Newton le Willows
Elina Constantine	8	Scholar	Newton le Willows
Matthew Constantine (Visitor)	8	Scholar	Sunderland

* Finghall is a village just up the road from Newton le Willows.

Interestingly the Constantines are living next door to a branch of the Hudson family, into which Arthur's older brother Frederick married (see notes above).

The household has somewhat shrunk for the 1871 census. All of the children apart from the two youngest have left home, and the Elina of 1861 is more accurately listed as Ellen. There is also a young man with the household who may have been assisting Thomas.^{vii}

Thomas Constantine	58	Mason	Finghall
Ann Constantine	63		Newton le Willows
George Constantine	21	Mason	Newton le Willows
Ellen Constantine	18		Newton le Willows
John Towers (Servant)	19	Labourer	Ripon

The final census record for Thomas and Ann Constantine was that for 1881. They seem to have spent all their married life at Newton le Willows. And once again we find them living next door to Hudsons. There unmarried daughter Ann is visiting and the young nephew would be living with them as an apprentice to Thomas.^{viii}

Thomas Constantine	68	Stone Mason	Finghall
Ann Constantine	72	Wife	Newton le Willows
Ann Constantine	42	Daughter	Newton le Willows
John James Constantine (Neph)	18	Mason Apprentice	Hornby, Yorks

The 1881 census record was the final one for Thomas S^{nr} and his wife Ann who seem to have died with a very short time of each other according to two death registrations for the Leyburn district for the Jul-Sep quarter of 1883 – Thomas Constantine aged 71 and Ann Constantine aged 76.^{ix}

As seen above, neither sons Thomas nor John Constantine were at home for the 1871 census. Both had married and had established themselves elsewhere. Thomas J^{nr} and his wife Mary were living at Catterick, where Thomas was engaged in the same occupation as his father.^x

Thomas Constantine	24	Stone Mason	Newton le Willows
Mary Constantine	21	Stone Mason's Wife	Kexby, Yorks

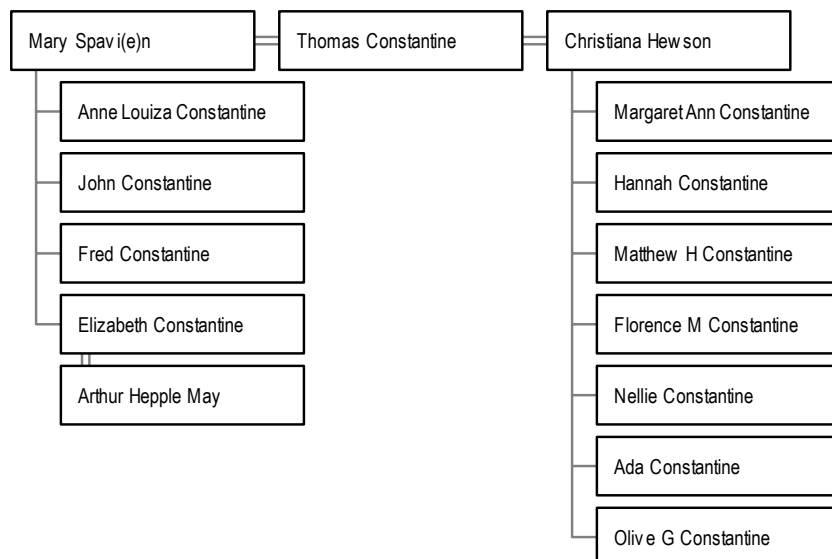
His brother John was still living at Newton le Willows with his young wife Ellen^{xi} who hailed from nearby Tunstall, and their son – yet another Thomas! - and working as a mason.^{xii}

A check on the available records would suggest that in the July to September quarter of 1870, and registering the event at Darlington district, Thomas had married Mary Spavin (or Spaven), who was born about 1850 and whose birth was registered at York in the first quarter of that year.^{xiii} Mary's place of birth was Kexby, and for the 1861 census when she was only 11, she was employed in the Bushell household at North Parade, Fulford Gate, York.^{xiv}

Henry Bushell	30	Agricultural Implement Maker	Banbury, Oxfordshire
Mary Bushell	37		Banbury, Oxfordshire
Harry A Bushell	13		Banbury, Oxfordshire
Lavinia Bushell	1		York
Mary Sparvin (Servant)	11		Kexby Yorks

No children were recorded in the 1871 census for Thomas and Mary Constantine, but we know that they did have a daughter, Elizabeth, whose birth was registered at Bedale in the Jul-Sep quarter of 1877, and who subsequently became Arthur May's wife.

However, when we look for Thomas and Mary in the 1881 census we can see that there has been a sad (and subsequently happier) change in Thomas's circumstances as he is now found with a wife called Christiana. So what happened to his first wife Mary? A registration of death at Bedale district for a Mary Constantine, aged 29, in the 1878 Apr-Jun quarter is that of Thomas's first wife and mother of Elizabeth. She died on 18th May at Burneston of Tuberculosis (8 months) Diarrhoea (12 days) in the presence of her sister M.L: Spaven of 21 Bootham Terrace, York.^{xv}



For 1881 Thomas is back in Burneston and with his second wife Christiana who he married sometime during the Jan-Mar quarter in the Bedale district in 1880, nearly 2 years after Mary died.^{vi}

Thomas Constantine	34	Stone Mason	Newton le Willows
Christiana Constantine	22		Burneston
Anne Louiza Constantine	9	Scholar	Burneston
John Constantine	8	Scholar	Burneston
Fred Constantine	5	Scholar	Burneston
Margaret Ann Constantine	3mths		Newton le Willows
Henry Constantine (Lodger)(U)	52	Ag Labourer	Hornby

Apart from the lodger, who was one of the Hornby Constantines, and the baby Margaret Ann, there are 3 other children listed. So this shows that Thomas and his first wife Mary had four children, of whom Elizabeth Constantine born in 1877, was the youngest and, from the place of birth of the children, indicates also that Thomas and Mary moved from Catterick back to Burneston shortly after their marriage.

But why is Elizabeth not also listed in this household? The reason is that she spent the 1881 census night with her uncle John.^{vii} How long she stayed with this branch of the family is not known. Perhaps she went there when her mother died, as Thomas may have found it difficult to deal with the children after Mary died. Perhaps Christiana, with a new born baby of her own, found her hands full with her ready made family and so Elizabeth was sent off to relatives. By this time John Constantine had turned his hand to a new line of business, and was residing in Hetton le Hole, (just north-west of Durham) at High Downs Quarry Row.

John Constantine	40	Licenses Victualler	Patrick Brompton
Eleanor* Constantine	34		Catterick
Thomas Constantine	11		Patrick Brompton
Matthew Constantine	9		Patrick Brompton
John Constantine	8		Burneston
Elizabeth Constantine	6		Burneston
Willie Constantine	4		Hetton le Hole
Hannah Constantine (Visitor)	38		Patrick Brompton
Elizabeth Constantine (Visitor)	3		Burneston
Mary Adamson	20	Domestic Servant	Hetton le Hole
Amelia Holmes 18		Domestic Servant Devonshire	

* She gave her name as Ellen in 1861.

Apart from 3 year old Elizabeth, there was another visitor – Hannah – an unmarried sister to John and Thomas. Perhaps she accompanied her niece to Hetton le Hole and was her temporary carer?

But back to Thomas and Christiana. She was a local girl, born at Burneston about 1859 to Christopher and Margaret Hewson, as shown by the 1861 census, at which time Christiana was a 2 year old living with her family at Burneston, and by the 1871 census where she again features.^{viii}

Christopher Hewson	43	Grocer and Draper	Bedale
Margaret Hewson	41		Kirkby Fleetham

Margaret H Hewson	14	Scholar	Londonderry, Yorks
Christopher J Hewson	11	Scholar	Londonderry, Yorks
James W Hewson	9	Scholar	Londonderry, Yorks
Elizabeth A Hewson	5	Scholar	Burneston
Christiana Hewson	2		Burneston
Christopher Hewson	53	Grocer and Draper	Bedale
Margaret Hewson	51		Fleetham
Christopher J Hewson	21	Clerk	Londonderry, Yorks
Elizabeth A Hewson	15		Burneston
Christiana Hewson	12	Scholar	Burneston
Joseph Hewson	9	Scholar	Burneston

Within the first ten year of marriage, Thomas as seems to have been the case with most of the Constantine clan, had considerably increased the size of his family. For the 1891 census daughter Elizabeth is back home and the grandson may be the child of Anne Louiza (listed at A L Constantine). I am not sure where Margaret Ann, who would have been about 11, was for the census, or whether she was still alive.^{ix}

Thomas Constantine	44	Stone Mason	Newton le Willows
Christiana Constantine	31		Burneston
A L Constantine	19		Newton le Willows
John Constantine	17	Apprentice Mason	Burneston
Fred Constantine	15	Apprentice Mason	Burneston
Elizabeth Constantine	13	Scholar	Burneston
Hannah Constantine	6	Scholar	Burneston
Matthew Constantine	4	Scholar	Burneston
Florence Constantine	2mths		Burneston
James Constantine (Gson)	5mths		Burneston

The Constantines of Bedale had been stone masons for at least 2 generations and over a number of decades, and Thomas was still carrying on the business after 1891 as he is listed in Kelly's 1893 Directory under the heading Monumental Masons – Constantine Thomas, Burneston, Bedale.^x However, three years later and Thomas has died at the age of 50, as recorded in a registration as Bedale for the Oct-Dec quarter of 1896, and with more detail in his death certificate. He died at home in Burneston in the presence of his wife Christiana on 13th December. The cause as certified by George Mickel, was described fully as Pleurisy, Paracentesis Thoracis (Removal of 160g of fluid [biopsy]), Syncope [loss of consciousness].^{xi}

This has been a long 'journey' to trace Elizabeth May's family, and to complete the saga as far as the census transcriptions allow – Christiana Constantine had moved away from Burneston by 1901 and was living at Main Street, Hurworth (just south of Darlington), Durham. The census return shows that between 1891 and her late husband's death in 1896, three more children had been added to the family (and Christiana may have been pregnant with the last one when Thomas died). Why she felt the need to move away from the support of the Constantine clan is not known. Perhaps with the responsibility of her youngest children to consider, she needed to earn her living, and it may be that her job also provided accommodation.^{xii}

Christiana Constantine	42	Chapel Keeper (Wesleyan)	Burneston
Matthew H Constantine	14	Tailor's Apprentice	Burneston
Nellie Constantine	7		Burneston
Ada Constantine	6		Burneston
Olive G Constantine	4		Burneston



ⁱ RG11/4871/p10; RG12/4028/p8.

ⁱⁱ FreeBMD Birth Index. There were, in fact, Constantines living in Keighley for the 1841 census – involved in the woollen industry. HO107/1316/p.24.

ⁱⁱⁱ HO107/1250/pp10-11.

^{iv} IGI Family Group Record.

^v HO107/2379/pp5-6.

^{vi} RG9/3669/p20.

^{vii} RG10/4869/p21.

^{viii} RG11/4874/p22.

^{ix} FreeBMD Index

^x RG10/4876/p11.

^{xi} This Ellen was probably Eleanor Metcalfe, and the couple was probably married in the Oct-Dec quarter of 1869 and, as with Thomas's marriage, it was registered at Darlington. FreeBMD Marriage Index.

^{xii} RG10/4869/p22.

^{xiii} FreeBMD Birth and Marriage Indexes.

^{xiv} RG9/3554/pp17-18.

^{xv} FreeBMD Death Index; certified copy of Death Certificate DAX085964.

^{xvi} RG11/4871/p4; FreeBDM Marriage Index.

^{xvii} RG11/4975/p10.

^{xviii} RG9/3665/p5; RG10/4866/p9.

^{xix} RG12/4028/p5.

^{xx} Kelly's Directory of N & E Ridings of Yorkshire, 1983 [Part 2: Court and Trade Directories and Hull], p684.

^{xxi} FreeBMD Death Index.

^{xxii} RG13/4614/p17.