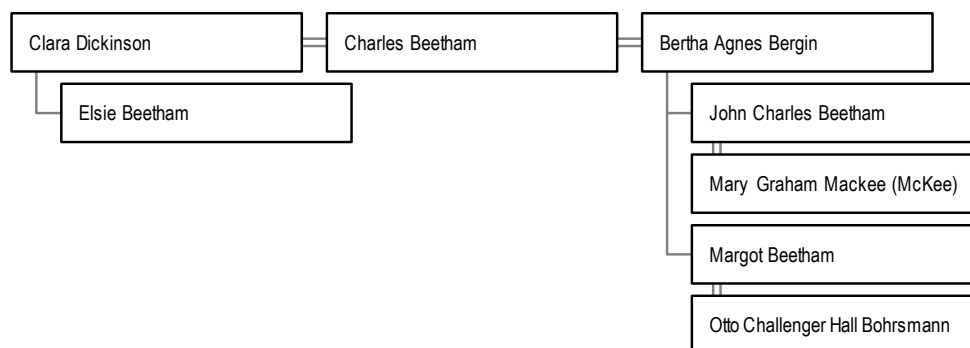


Charles Beetham



Charles was the first child of Mary and John Beetham and he was born in Leeds on 16th December 1855 at 107 West Street Leeds and where his parents lived for some years.^v Along with his brother Walter and sister Emily, he was staying with his paternal grandmother when the 1861 census was conducted.^v He was back at home, a 15 year old scholar, for the 1871 census when the family had moved into St Paul's Street.^v

It would be interesting to know how influential his father John was in Charles being employed in the drapery business, for in 1881 he was a boarder, along with nearly 60 others, at the Mill Hill branch of Marshall and Snelgroves, in Basinghall Street, Leeds. Marshall and Snelgroves was a large drapery chain with its head store in London. (The chain was later taken over by Debenhams, which has now closed). The Manager of the Leeds branch was Henry Harris.^{iv}

Charles Beetham	24	Draper's Assistant	Leeds
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Charles married his first wife, Clara Dickinson, at Old Souls Church, Leeds on 9th November 1886 by Licence. At the time Charles's age was given as 28 and Clara's as 20. Prior to the marriage Charles was living at 83 Kirkgate and his bride at 13 Wellclose Mount, Leeds. Charles's father was listed at John Beetham, Linen Draper, (deceased) and Clara's as Harry Dickinson, Farmer. Charles gave his profession as "Retired Merchant" which seems a rather odd descriptor. Witnesses to the ceremony were Arthur Dickinson Kirkby and Jane Anne Ferguson.^v

Clara, whose birth was registered in the Apr-June quarter of 1866 at Caistor, Lincolnshire, and her father was in fact a farmer of somewhat moderate means. However, for the 1871 census, the first for Clara, she was not with her parents. She and her young brother were staying with their paternal grandfather at Holine Hill, West Rasen, Lincolnshire.^{vi}

John Dickinson	63	Farmer 575 acres, employing 6 Labs and 4 boys	Houghton, Yorks
Mary Dickinson	59		Cliff Dales, Yorks
Thos Dickinson	36	Farmers Son	Houghton, Yorks
Lyzzia Dickinson	27	Farmers Daughter	Houghton, Yorks
John Dickinson	21	Farmers Son	Houghton, Yorks
Clara Dickinson (G Dau)	4	Visitor	Rasen, Lincolnshire
Sam Dickinson (G Son)	2	Visitor	Hazlewood, Lincolnshire
Mary Tomlinson	20	House Maid	Owmbly, Lincolnshire
Jane Booth	20	Dairy Maid	Legsby, Lincolnshire
Martha Sharp	12	Nurse Maid	Glentham, Lincolnshire
Chs Fowell	19	Groom	Thoresway, Lincolnshire
Alfred Cash	22	Farm Labourer	Kelsey, Lincolnshire
Geo Burnett	19	Farm Labourer	Cockington, Lincolnshire

Clara and Sam's parents were, for the 1871 census, at White Quarry Farm, at Stutton with Hazlewood (under the mistranscription of Dickenson).^{vii} A check on the map of the area for 1849 shows this area, south of Tadcaster, to have a number of quarries.^{viii}

Henry Dickinson	30	Farmer 350 acres, 4 men, 5 boys	Houghton, Yorks
Ann Dickinson	27		Beverley, Yorks
Mary Dickinson	3		Hazlewood Yorks
Mary Waller	22	Servant	Wikley, Yorks
Jemima Poole	17	Servant	Highel, Yorks
Aaron Wilson	19	Farm Servant	Hessay, Yorks
Robert Moverley	16	Farm Servant	Hazlewood, Yorks

Walter Fowler 17 Farm Servant Grimston, Yorks

Clara and brother were back with the family for the 1881 census, where they were still at Hazlewood White Quarry Farm, in the registration district of Tadcaster. Henry has somewhat downsized his holding but upsized his family!.*

Henry Dickinson	41	Farmer 100 acres, emp 2 men	Houghton, Yorks
Ann Dickinson	37	Farmers wife	Dalton Holme, Yorks
Clara Dickinson	14	Farmers daughter	Hambleton, Lincolnshire
Samuel Dickinson	12	Farmers son	Hazlewood, Yorks
Sarah Dickinson	10	Farmers daughter	Hazlewood, Yorks
Philip Dickinson	7	Farmers son	Hazlewood, Yorks
Annie Dickinson	4	Farmers daughter	Hazlewood, Yorks
Louisa Dickinson	1mth	Farmers daughter	Hazelwood, Yorks
Anna Backhouse	18	General Servant	Stutton, Yorks
Thomas Kilvington	21	Farm Servant (Indoor)	Leckby, Yorks
Patsey Durkin	19	Farm Servant (Indoor)	Ireland

I have a few problems with the place of birth given for Clara. In 1871 it was Rasen, Lincolnshire, in 1881 it was Hambleton, Lincolnshire. But a look at the map shows a Hambleton just south of Tadcaster on the Selby road (see also below for the 1891 census).

Charles has not been located in the 1891 census and we know, from his mother Mary's will, that by 1895 Charles had emigrated to Australia. It was here that he married his second wife Bertha Agnes Bergin on 15th October 1902 at St Johns Bishopthorpe, Sydney, with the marriage being registered in the district of Glebe.^x

However, I have located Clara in the 1891 census, staying with her mother who by this time is widowed. Finding this record was made almost impossible as the transcriber had Clara's and her mother's surname as "Lumley"! It was only by doing a search on the name Beetham that I found Clara and a daughter – whose surname was correctly transcribed – Elsie Beetham. Elsie and her mother were staying with Ann Dickinson at 98 Hayward(?) Street, Bilton upon Harrogate.

Ann Dickinson (W)	47	Living on own means	Hull, Yorks
Clara Beetham (M)	24	Living on own means	Market Rasen, Lincolnshire
Sarah Dickinson	19	Living on own means	Hazlewood, Yorks
Ann Dickinson	14	Scholar	Hazlewood, Yorks
Louisa Dickinson	10	Scholar	Hazelwood, Yorks
Elsie Beetham (GDau)	3		Australia

From this we learn that Charles and Clara must have been in Australia by the time their daughter was born in about 1888. I have not found any records of the date of their passage, but have found a likely listing for Clara and Elsie returning to Sydney on the SS Oroya, departing from London on 1st January 1892.^{vi}

Presumably Clara had died by the time of Charles's second marriage. I have not found any record to support this, nor have I yet found any record to indicate what happened to Elsie Beetham.

Charles and Bertha had two children, born some time after their marriage - John Charles Beetham born in 1913 and Margot Beetham born on 25th April 1914. Charles Beetham died on 28th July 1937, at age 82. At the time of his death he was living at 43 Aubin Street, Neutral Bay, Sydney.^{vii}

Nothing further has been followed up at this stage for Bertha, and all that I know about the children is that John Charles married Mary Graham Mackee (or McKee) at Mosman in 1937 and Margot was married in 1938 in Sydney to Otto Challenger Hall.^{viii}



ⁱ BW's notes.

ⁱⁱ RG/9/3441/pp1-2.

ⁱⁱⁱ RG/10/4568/p58.

^{iv} RG11/4537/p5.

^v BW's notes; FreeBMD Marriage Index; Leeds:CE27/184.

^{vi} RG10/3424/p3.

^{vii} RG9/4740/p9.

^{viii} <http://www.old-maps.co.uk>.

^{ix} RG11/4713/p9.

^x BW's notes. NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.

^{xi} Passenger lists leaving UK 1890-1960.

^{xii} BW's notes.

^{xiii} BW's notes; NSW Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages.