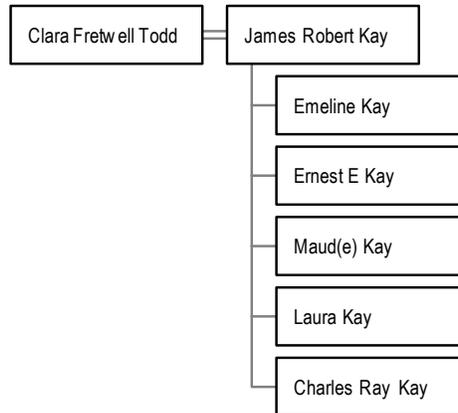


Clara Fretwell Todd



The youngest child of Isabella and Charles was born towards the end of 1841 and was the only child to be born in Leeds. She would have been around 5 when her older sister Laura died and about 11 when her father died. She was with her mother and sisters for the 1851 census and with her then widowed mother and sister, Emma Isabella for the 1861 census.^v By the 1871 census Clara had married and was living at 4 Evans Terrace, Saint Mary Ward, Southampton.[#]

James R Kay	43	Marine Engineer	Leeds
Clara F Kay	29		Leeds
Emeline Kay	8	Scholar	Leeds
Ernest E Kay	6	Scholar	Southampton, Hants
Maude Kay	1		Southampton, Hants
Emma Todd	40	Visitor	Bolton, Lancashire

With the family is Emma Todd, Clara's sister. Judging from the birthplace of the later children, James probably relocated to Southampton around 1865 after the birth in Leeds of Emeline.

I realise that Kay was a common surname, but the first names James Robert rang a loud bell. He was, in fact the oldest son of Edward and Mary Kay who were, respectively, sister and sister in law of Isabella Todd, making James and Clara cousins. Further, Clara was James's second wife.

James Kay, who was born about 1828 in Leeds, married twice, first to Ellen Hodgson, by whom he had one son, John Henry Kay, and subsequently to Clara Fretwell Todd. This section will cover the second marriage. The first marriage is covered under the section dealing with Edward Kay and his family.

As noted previously, James was in Leeds (whether living there or only visiting is not known) for the wedding of Mary Amelia Todd. Perhaps it was there that he renewed his acquaintance with his young cousin Clara. No record has yet been located in the 1861 census for him, but his son was staying with his Aunt and Uncle, William and Mary Hodgson at Hoyland Nether.^v James Robert Kay 'reappears' in 1871. His son John Henry is still living with his aunt and uncle.^v

According to the marriage certificate, Clara and James married by licence on 2nd November 1861 at the parish church of Saint James in Southampton. James was a 33 year old widower and Clara a 21 year old spinster. James's father was Edward Kay, Painter (deceased), and Clara's was Charles Todd, Civil Engineer. James, as was his later father-in-law, was an engineer - James in the marine side and Charles in the civil. The ceremony was witnessed by one William Ritchie, and, as seemed to have been one of her roles in life, Clara's sister Emma Isabella Todd.^v

Around 1872 another child, Laura, was born to James and Clara, and another son Charles in 1876. The only family members found in the 1881 census are Ernest in Durham, and Charles, Maud and Laura who are all in boarding schools.^v Emeline may have married or perhaps died, but no record has been found to substantiate either of these options. Their step-brother John Henry Kay, now married, is a locomotive engine smith, now living in Leeds.^v

James has not been tracked down for 1881. However we do know why Clara did not feature in the 1881 census – she died on 21st February 1876 at home at Evans Terrace, perhaps after a difficult child-birth with Charles whose birth was registered also in the first quarter of the same year.^v From the death certificate we find that she was the wife of James Robert Kay, an engineer on a Steam Vessel – which may explain why he was absent for some census returns. At the time of her death Clara was only 30 years old and the cause of death was given as "Stimulant (Excessive) apoplexy 4 days". Present at the death, and the informant, was Emma Isabella Todd, with suggests that

she was actually living with the family rather than an occasional visitor. If James was frequently away, Clara would have appreciated some assistance with her young family. The reference to excessive stimulant is intriguing – laudanum (a derivative of opium) comes to mind which was commonly used to treat a range of ailments. Until its sale and dosages were regulated, laudanum was readily available for sale alongside good and spirits. Another possibility is alcohol, or a combination of the two as a tonic or pain reliever.ⁱ

It is likely that James keenly felt the loss of another wife at a very young age and perhaps also a daughter, and, unable to cope, had placed the younger children in boarding school. James is found again in the 1891 census - a widower, and he never remarried after Clara's death. With him at his house at 1 Elmfield Villa, South Stoneham, are 3 of their 5 children.ⁱⁱ

James R Kay	65	Retired Marine Engineer	Leeds
Maud Kay	21		Southampton, Hants
Laura Kay	18		Southampton, Hants
Charles Kay	15		Southampton, Hants

Only James and Laura, with some domestic help, are living together at the 1901 census. James has again moved house to 8 Westridge Road, Portswood, Southampton.ⁱⁱⁱ

James R Kay	75	Retired Chief Engineer	Leeds
Laura Kay	28		Southampton, Hants
Ellen Grundy	21	General Servant (Domestic)	Botley, Hants

It was here that James died on 5th February 1909 at the age of 82. He was described as a Marine Engineer Retired, and the cause of death, as certified by Dr. Frederick Harvey, was "Senile Decay". Present at the death, and the informant, was his daughter Laura who no doubt nursed him during his final years.^{iv}

ⁱ FreeBMD Index; copy of registration – District 88, Vol xx111, page 312.

ⁱⁱ HO107/2318/p1; RG 9/3396/p4.

ⁱⁱⁱ RG10/1187/p21.

^{iv} RG9/3451/p24.

^v RG10/4650/p12.

^{vi} IGI Record Batch No M137611 Source Call No 104748; certified copy of Marriage Certificate MXC846802.

^{vii} RG11/5004/p28; RG11/1213/p14; RG11/1221/p51.

^{viii} RG11/4522/p11.

^{ix} Certified copy of Death Certificate DYB 21008; FreeBMD Death Index; FreeBMD Birth Index.

^x The Social Ramifications of Opium Use in 19th Century England, Lea Smalls.

^{xi} RG12/926/p34.

^{xii} RG13/1069/p38.

^{xiii} Certified copy of Death Certificate DYB218661; FreeBMD Death Index.