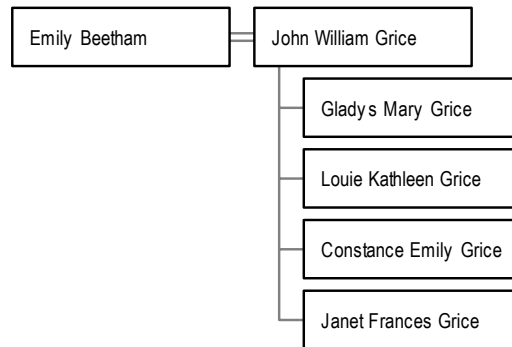


Emily Beetham



Emily, the eldest of three daughters born to Mary and John Beetham, was born in the Jul-Sep quarter of 1860. The census returns give her place of birth as Leeds, but the event seems to have been registered in the district of Bradford. As a one year old, she was staying with her grandmother at Hemsworth for the 1861 census but was back at home for the next two census nights.#

Her father had died in 1882 and so was not able to give her away when she got married in 1886, the same year as her brother. Emily married John William Grice at St. Augustine, Wrangthorne, Leeds. John's life before he married can be sketched through the census returns for the years 1861-1881.# John was the son of William and Mary Grice, and in 1861 the family was living 8 Collegate, York.

William Grice	39	Tailor and Outfitter	Norton, Yorkshire
Mary Grice	38		Bulmer, Yorkshire
Tom E Grice	11	Scholar	York
George H Grice	9	Scholar	York
John W Grice	6	Scholar	York
Septimus J Grice	4		York
Octavius Grice	2		York
Nonus Grice	6 mths		York
Elizabeth Robinson	19	Servant	Crayke, Yorkshire

I was intrigued by the logical naming of the children, and Nonus as the last listed, was presumably their ninth child. I checked the 1851 census (which was conducted before the above listed John W Grice was born). I was even more intrigued to find listed in this earlier census return another child of the same name.#

William Grice	29	Tailor and Draper	Norton, Yorkshire
Mary Grice	28		Bulmer, Yorkshire
John William Grice	7		York
Tom Edmund Grice	1		York
John Plowman	17	Apprentice	Wigginton, Yorkshire

Even with the additional and earlier John William (who presumably died as a young boy, although I have not located any record of this yet), the total of offspring over the two census counts only totals 7, so no doubt there were others who died in infancy.

But back to 1871. Now the Grice family was at Back Lane, Fulford Gate, York, and the older two boys are earning their living.

William Grice	49	Tailor	Norton, Yorkshire
Mary Grice (M)	48		Bulmer, Yorkshire
George H Grice	19	Shop Boy	York
John W Grice	16	Shop Boy	York
Septimus J Grice	14	Scholar	York
Octavius Grice	11	Scholar	York
Jane E Firth	19	General Servant	York
Alexander McKecknie (Boarder)	20	Coal Merchant's Clerk	Keighley
William Poulter (Boarder)	46	Phrenologist	Roecliffe, Yorkshire

Sidetracking completely, I had to find out what a Phrenologist did for a living – and perhaps offered his services in lieu of rent!# According to Wikipedia :

Phrenology was a complex process that involved feeling the bumps in the skull. Franz Joseph Gall believed that the brain was made up of 27 individual organs that created one's personality. The first 19 of these organs Gall

believed were present in other animal species. Phrenologists would run their finger-tips and palms over the skulls of their patients to feel for enlargements or indentations. Often the phrenologist would take measurements of the overall head size using a caliper. Using this information the phrenologist would then assess the character and temperament of the patient and address each of the 27 "brain organs." This type of analysis was used to predict the kinds of relationships and behaviors the person was prone to. In its height during the 1820s-1840s phrenology was often used to predict a child's future or as a sort of a background check for individuals applying for jobs.

Gall's list of the "brain organs" was lengthy and specific. He believed that each bump or indentation in a person's skull corresponded to his map of the brain. If a person was to have an enlarged bump it meant that they used that particular "organ" more than other parts of their brain. Gall prescribed to the belief that the more you do something the more prominent it becomes in your personality thus this could be indicated by the enlarged area. The 27 areas were highly varied spanning everything from one's sense of colors, to their likelihood to be religious, to their capability to become a murderer. Each of these 27 "brain organs" was to be found in a specific spot on the skull. As the phrenologist felt the skull they could refer to a numbered diagram showing where each area was believed to be located.

From the 1881 Census we learn that John was working in a draper's shop at 2 Moorfields Street in Bradford.

Mary Grice	58		Bulmer, Yorkshire
George H Grice	29	Stuffwarehouseman (unemployed)	York
John W Grice	26	Shopman Drapery	York
Septimus J Grice	24	Commercial Clerk, Stuff Trade	York
Octavius Grice	22	Cabinet Maker	York
Thomas Grice	20	Commercial Clerk, Yarn Trade	York

Interestingly, William, who was not with the rest of the family, was actually staying at the Temperance Hotel, at Skelton in Guisbrough, quite some distance away near the coast, and his occupation was given as Tailor and Wesleyan Social Preacher.<sup>v</sup>

I had not been able to locate John or Emily in either the 1891 or 1901 census, even though I knew from mother Mary's will that the Grices were running a drapery shop from Market Square, Warwick, in 1895. However further checking found a John and Emily Grice, but with the ages out of kilter with their birth years and John's place of birth being given as Leeds, in the 1901 census. Adding to the doubt was that John's occupation is given as farmer. However, the fact that they were in Pattishall, where Emily's mother had died in 1895 seemed to suggest that this was the family in question, and also suggests that John and Emily had some children. The census return gives their address as Village Street, Pattishall, and reads as follows.<sup>w</sup>

John Grice	39	Farmer	Leeds, Yorkshire
Emily Grice	37		Leeds
Gladys Grice	13		Bradford
Kathleen Grice	9		Warwick
Constance Grice	6		Warwick
Janet Grice	1		Pattishall, Northants
Pattie Nightingale	17	General Domestic Servant	Pattishall, Northants

To see once more if I could find the family for the 1891 census I did a search on Gladys, born about 1887 in Bradford – with success this time – but with the family's name being transcribed as Erice. This time the ages are correct, and the family is listed as living at 13 and 15 Old Square, Warwick. Listed with the household are two women who were probably employees of the family business.

John Grice	35	Draper and Milliner	York
Emily Grice	32		Leeds
Gladys M Grice	3		Bradford
Fanny Butterly (Serv)	45	Dressmaker	Birmingham
Annie Watts (Serv)	28	Milliner	Leamington, Warwick
Hannah Pettifer	17	General Domestic Servant	Budbrooke, Warwick

We have seen that Mary Beetham, John's mother-in-law, had died in June 1900. The bequests from her will may have spurred John into selling up and moving out of the drapery business and establishing himself as a farmer – but this is just speculation. It may be that John and Emily moved to Pattishall at the same time as Mary, and were already farming before she died.

Having established that Emily and John had four daughters, I checked the FreeBMD Birth Index with the following results. The birth place of Gladys suggests that the Grices moved to Northants some time between the second half of 1887 and the 1891 census.

Name	Year	Quarter	Registration District
Gladys Mary Grice	1887	Jul-Sep	Bradford
Louie Kathleen Grice	1891	Jul-Sep	Warwick
Constance Emily	1894	Jul-Sep	Warwick
Janet Frances Grice	1900	Jan-Mar	Towcester

Mary Beetham lived long enough to see four granddaughters born. Finding out whether or not Emily and John had any other children will have to await the release of the 1911 census.




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<sup>i</sup> FreeBMD Birth Index.

<sup>ii</sup> RG/9/3441/pp1-2; RG/10/4568/p58; RG11/4535/p4.

<sup>iii</sup> RG9/3456/p.21; RG10/4753/p.22; RG11/4444/p.24.

<sup>iv</sup> HO107/2353/p25.

<sup>v</sup> RG11/4842/p.2.

<sup>vi</sup> RG13/1411/p8.