

Frederick May



Frederick was another of the May sons who, having served an apprenticeship with his family at the Hope Nursery, subsequently left home to earn his living elsewhere. His birth was registered at Bedale in the Jul-Sep quarter of 1867. At home for the 1871 and 1881 census nights, he was not listed with his widowed mother for the 1891 census because by this time he had moved to Leicester and was boarding in the household of Samuel Hall at Reservoir Bank (Water Works Cottage) Cropston, a village just north of Leicester.^v

Samuel Hall (W)	68	Foreman of Filtering Beds	Woodhouse Eaves, Leics
Fanny E Squires (GrandD)	17	House Keeper	Woodhouse Eaves, Leics
Collin Squires (GrandS)	13	Apprentice Shoemaker	Belgrave, Leics
Charles Brock (Boarder)	39	Engineer at Water Works	Aylseford, Kent
Frederick May (Boarder)	24	Gardener	Burneston, Yorks

Ten years later, Frederick is not only the Head inhabitant of Water Works Cottage but he is now also the Foreman of the waterworks. He also has a wife whose birthplace is listed as Bedale, which would suggest that they knew each other prior to Frederick's move to Leicester.^w

Frederick May	34	Foreman, Waterworks	Burneston, Yorkshire
Sarah A May	43		Bedale, Yorkshire

Frederick and Sarah were married in the Jul-Sep quarter 1891 in the Wakefield district. Before her marriage, Sarah was Sarah Hudson whose birth was registered in the Bedale district between October and December 1854.^v

An LDS family group record (not necessarily verified) carries a considerable amount of detail about Sarah Hudson's parents and grandparents. Her parents were Charles and Ann Hudson (née Hird) who were married on 11th August 1839 at Bedale. Her maternal grandparents were Robert and Elizabeth Hird (née Smithson-Wright). Robert was born on 17th October 1768 at Bedale and died there on 4th June 1841. Elizabeth was born about 1877, also at Bedale, and they married on 6th January 1796, again at Bedale. According to the LDS record, they had 15 children (not all of whom survived infancy), of whom Ann was the twelfth born.^v

Sarah is first found with her parents for the 1861 census as a 6 year old girl, living at Emgate, Bedale.^w

Charles Hudson	47	Ropemaker	Bedale
Ann Hudson	45	Ropemaker's wife	Bedale
Robert Hudson	17	Skinner	Burneston
Charles Hudson	16	Apprentice to Skinner	Burneston
James Hudson	11	Scholar	Bedale
Sarah Hudson	6	Scholar	Bedale

The Hudsons are at the same address for the 1871 census, but most of the children have left home, and a grandson is included in the household.^w

Charles Hudson	58	Ropemaker	Bedale
Ann Hudson	56		Bedale
Sarah Ann Hudson	17	Pupil Teacher	Bedale
Charles William Hudson (Gson)	1		Yarm, Yorks

In 1881 Sarah Hudson is found living alone, now in Burneston.^{ww} The fact that she is living and working in Burneston, and is living just 3 doors down from a branch of the Constantine family, into which Frederick May's younger brother Arthur married (see notes below), lends weight to the suggestion that Sarah and Frederick were acquainted some time before their marriage.

Sarah Anne Hudson	26	School Mistress	Bedale
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She was back living at Bedale for the 1891 census, with her widowed mother at South End.^{xx}

Ann Hudson	73		Bedale
Sarah A Hudson	36	Certificated Schoolmistress	Bedale

Sarah is another of the May wives who understated her age. Taking the birth registration date of 1854 as correct, the ages recorded by the enumerators of the 1861, 1871, 1881, and 1891 census (6, 17, 16 and 36) fit nicely into the time span. However, sometime between 1891 and 1901, Sarah seems to have 'lost' about 3 years!

No children are listed with Frederick and Sarah in the 1901 census, even though by that time they had been married for ten years. At this stage no record of any children has been found and it is unlikely that, if the couple lived to see in the 1911 census, that they would have had any children between 1901 and 1911, given Sarah's (more accurate) age.



ⁱ RG10/4866/p11; RG11/4871/p10; RG12/4028/p8.

[#] RG12/2521/p8.

ⁱⁱⁱ RG13/2983/p16.

^{iv} FreeBMD Birth Index.

^v IGI Individual Records and Family Group Record.

^{vi} RG9/3664/p15.

^{vii} RG10/4805/p10.

^{viii} RG11/4871/p4.

^{ix} RG12/4028/p2.