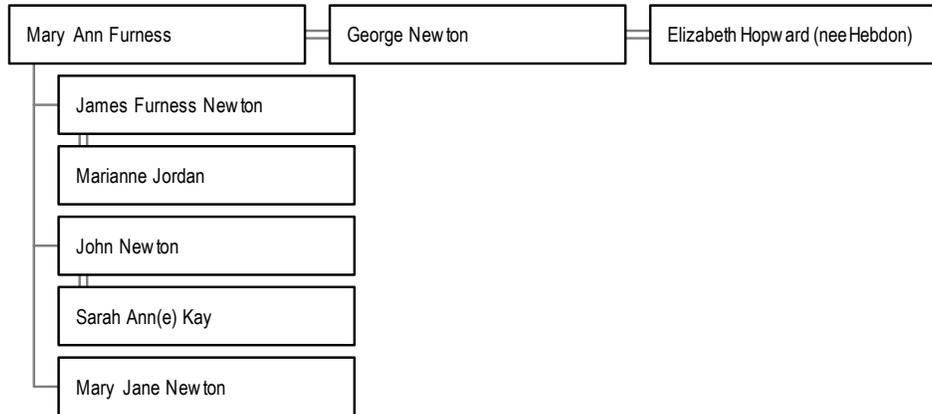


## George Newton



The IGI Family Group Record of George Newton being born on 14<sup>th</sup> July 1804, and another IGI record of one George Newton, son of John Newton, being christened at St. Peter's, Leeds, on 20<sup>th</sup> August 1804 have been taken as the first documented records of this boy, the first surviving of 5 sons.<sup>v</sup> The next reference we have for George is from the 1826 Leeds Directory where he is recorded as a House and Sign Painter and Grainer, the business operating from 10 Crescent Street, and his residence as 32 Park Lane, where his parents lived and from which premises they ran a shop.<sup>#</sup>

I have been unable to locate George in the 1841 census but have found him in the 1851 census return. Here he is a married man with 3 children at home at 1 Hanover Street, Leeds. His wife is Elizabeth, 2 years or so older than George, was born in Wheldrake (south of York). George seems to have done quite well for himself as he is listed as an employer and both sons seem to have inherited their father's talents.<sup>#</sup>

George Newton	46	Painter, employing 2 Men	Leeds
Elizaton Newton	48		Wheldrake, Yorkshire
James Newton	19	Painter	Leeds
John Newton	16	Carver and Gilder	Leeds
Mary Jane Newton	9	Scholar	Leeds
Sarah Jacock	17	Servant	Tadcaster

The transcription of the name Elizaton is a mistake as can be seen from the 1861 Census when we find Elizabeth, now a widow, still at 1 Hanover Square and described as a property owner, living 2 doors away from James Furness Newton. John has also left home, but the youngest child, Mary Jane is still with Elizabeth.<sup>iv</sup>

Elizabeth Newton	58	Proprietor of Houses	Wheldrake, Yorkshire
Mary Jane Newton (Step Dau)	19	Scholar	Leeds
Sarah Hebden (niece)(U)	27	House Servant	Methley

The reference to Mary Jane as being a step-daughter is interesting and is the first hint we have that Elizabeth was, in fact, George's second wife. With this thought in mind, and taking account of the unusual second name of his first born son – James *Furness* Newton, I speculated that his first wife's maiden name may have been Furness. An IGI search proved me correct. George Newton and Mary Ann Furness were married at St. Peter's, Leeds on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1827. Nothing further is know about Mary Ann except that she must have died sometime after the birth of Mary Jane (abt 1842) and the 1851 census night, 30<sup>th</sup> March 1851.

The following two references have been found in the Yorkshire FreeBMD Death Index, and there are also some Mary Ann Newton deaths listed in Ancestry.<sup>v</sup> These will need to be followed up.

Surname	Forename(s)	Age	Sub-District	Registers At	Reference	Year
NEWTON	Mary A	-	Leeds West	Leeds	WEST/13/297	1845
NEWTON	Mary A	-	Holbeck	Leeds	HOLB/9/173	1846

So that begs the question as to who Elizabeth was before she married George? A FreeBMD Index: marriage between a George Newton and an Elizabeth Cornock at St Peter's, Leeds for 1845 has been checked but proved to be incorrect. However, a check on the Family Search site yielded the following information. George Newton, son of John Newton, married Elizabeth Hopward at Saint Mary's, Bishopill Junior, York, on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1847.<sup>vi</sup>

It was the bride's father's name that confirmed that this was the likely reference to the marriage. He was one Edward Hebden, and the significance of this was the name of the niece who was with Elizabeth for the 1861 census – Sarah Hebden. Apart from narrowing down the period in which George's first wife would have died, the record shows that Elizabeth had been married before when she subsequently married George. A further check on the Family Search site brought up the following record - John Hopwood, son of Richard Hopwood, married Elizabeth Hebden, daughter of Edward Hebden at Saint Mary, Bishophill Junior, York, on 11<sup>th</sup> June 1839.<sup>vii</sup>

Notwithstanding the discrepancy with the transcription of the surnames, if John and Elizabeth were married in 1839, perhaps they were recorded in the 1841 census. A search was conducted first using the surname Hopwood, which at first yielded a promising record of a John (born about 1806) with a wife, Elizabeth, (born about 1803 – which tied in with the estimated birth years for George's Elizabeth in the 1851 and 1861 census records given above). However this couple had to be ruled out as they had a number of children ranging in age from 1 to 10, and they were also found still living together in the 1851 census.<sup>viii</sup> However another search of the 1841 census using the name Hopward has, I believe, located the correct couple. They were both born in Yorkshire and were recorded as living in Wellington Lane, Leeds, although the wife's age is flattering.<sup>ix</sup>

John Hopward	35	Publican
Elizabeth Hopward	35	

There are no children listed with the couple, who would have married relatively late in life. Interestingly, Wellington Lane is less than half a mile from Hanover Street where George was living in 1851, and perhaps for some time prior to that.

There is a Leeds death registration for a John Hopward for the Jul-Sep quarter of 1846.<sup>x</sup> If this is the first husband of Elizabeth, they were married for only seven years, and about one year later, the widow married George Newton.

Elizabeth's second marriage lasted a little longer than her first. George was alive in November 1855 as he was one of the Executors who proved the will of John Fretwell but, as we have noted, he was dead by the time of the 1861 Census. We have a copy of his death certificate which records that George died on 20<sup>th</sup> May 1860 at 1 Hanover Square at the age of 55. His occupation was Painter (Master) and the cause of death was Diseased Heart, Dropsy (congestive heart failure). The informant was James Furness Newton, of 3 Hanover Street, who was present at the death which was registered the next day, 21<sup>st</sup> May.<sup>xi</sup>

How long Elizabeth survived him has not been established as, after 1861, no further record for her has been found in subsequent census returns and, at this stage, a check on the list of possible death registrations has not been checked out.<sup>xii</sup> Similarly, nothing further has been found at this stage for Mary Jane Newton She may have married which will make her more difficult to trace.



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<sup>i</sup> IGI Family Group Record and IGI Individual Record, Batch C009626.

<sup>ii</sup> WEF Notes.

<sup>iii</sup> HO107/2321/p19.

<sup>iv</sup> RG9/3392/p25.

<sup>v</sup> On file.

<sup>vi</sup> Family Group Record on file.

<sup>vii</sup> Family Group Record on file.

<sup>viii</sup> HO107/1356/p6; HO107/2352/p8.

<sup>ix</sup> HO107/1349/p33.

<sup>x</sup> FreeBMD Death Index.

<sup>xi</sup> Certified copy of Death Certificate FC885068.

<sup>xii</sup> List on file.