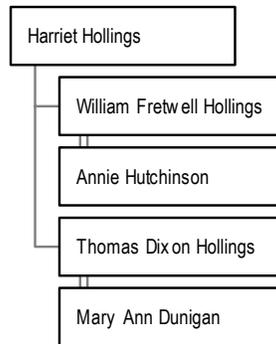


Harriet Hollings



According to an IGI reference, Harriet was baptised in 1834 at Holbeck² and this year is confirmed by the 1841 census return, where she is listed as a 7 year old girl, living with her family at Land End, Holbeck.² Harriet was not at home for the 1851 Census as she was a servant in the household of Godfrey Wood, Ornamental Confectioner at 16 Commercial Street, Leeds. This family seems to have moved from Selby to Leeds at various times.³

Godfrey Wood	47	Ornamental Confectioner (emp 2 men)	Selby
Elizabeth Wood	36		Selby
Mary Wood	17		Selby
Henry Wood	13	Scholar	Leeds
Thomas Wood	11	Scholar	Selby
Richard Wood	9	Scholar	Selby
Mary Ann Wood	8	Scholar	Leeds
Elizabeth Wood	4		Leeds
Bayston Wood	3		Leeds
Jane Wood	under 1 mth		Leeds
Hannah Brunton	19	House Servant	North Duffield
Harriet Hollings	15	Nurse Girl	Leeds
Hannah Crowther	67	Nurse	Leeds

Harriet's age for the 1851 census does not quite tally with a birth year of 1834. Similarly any reference to her in the 1861 census would be expected to show her age at around 26-27. On that basis, and until proven otherwise, I think the following census listing could be 'our' Harriet, even though the place of birth, almost undecipherable, seems to be entered as Knothrop. On that basis, 1861 found Harriet working in a responsible position in the household of Thomas Foreman who was running the White Swan Inn at 36 Pavement, Castlegate, York.⁴

Thomas Foreman	47	Innkeeper	Beverley
Ann Foreman	36		Kingston, Middlesex
Theresa Foreman	4		Birmingham, Warwickshire
Richard Foreman	2		Birmingham, Warwickshire
Richard Foreman (Bro)	40	Gentleman	Beverley
Frederick Gilliard	30	Commercial Traveller	Kingsbridge, Devonshire
Jane F Whitmore	25	Companion	Stockport
Harriet Hollings	26	Head Chamber Maid	Knothrop?
Jane Hunter	25	Under Chamber Maid	Stafford, Staffordshire
Jane Nelson	26	Kitchen Maid	Tipperary, Ireland
Ann Henning	22	Nurse	Yarmouth
George Birbeck	25	Head Boots	York
James Brown	23	Under Boots	York

Working further on the assumption that Harriet Hollings was employed by Thomas Foreman begs the question as to where her two sons were living. For by this time she was the unmarried mother of William Fretwell Hollings and Thomas Dixon Hollings, born in 1856 and 1858 respectively.⁵ To date no record of where the boys were living in 1861 has been found. However, they both make an appearance in the 1871 census at Newcastle, where the family has relocated. Harriet's previous occupations would have stood her in good stead for her new position as a lodging house keeper at 44 Blenheim Street, Westgate.⁶

Harriet Hollings (Wid)	36	Lodging House Keeper	Leeds
Thomas Dixon Hollings	12	Shop Boy (Errand)	Yorkshire

The census collector made finding her somewhat difficult as her name was transcribed as 'Hallings'. It is interesting to note that she now styles herself as 'Widow', no doubt to establish her respectability. Lodging in the house are the extended family of William D McCarthy and his wife Elizabeth, consisting of 4 sons, one daughter, and three sisters together with a young girl, Emelia Brown, who was described as a Nurse Girl. The adults of this family are described as Actors and Vocalists, so they were presumably a travelling entertainment troupe. Also in the lodging house is one Dion Meinander who seems to have been born in Finland and is described as a Russian Subject. Younger son Thomas, at home with Harriet, was already earning his keep. Elder son William Fretwell Hollings is not at home, but was an inmate at a Newcastle on Tyne Ragged/Industrial School – refer to Generation 3 notes.

For the 1881 census it seems that Harriet has returned to Leeds. She was employed by a publican (and perhaps living in) at 42 Albion Street, West Leeds.⁷

Joseph Roberts	70	Licensed Victualler	Wakefield
Annie Roberts (dau)	36		Wakefield
Henry B Barratt (G'son)	17	Ironmongers Apprentice	Wakefield
Elizabeth C Barrett (G'dau)	15		Scholar Wakefield
Mary A Marsden	25	Barmaid	Wakefield
Eleanor Machell (Vis)	22		Barnsley
Edward Bolsover	35	Commercial Traveller	Manchester
Mary A Lambert	42	Cook	Kirkstall
Harriet Hollings	45	Chamber Maid	Leeds
Emma Wilks	35	Waitress	Kirkstall
Ellen Lumb	21	Kitchen Maid	Barnsley

Harriet's sons, who by then would have been 24 and 22, are now independent and are not listed with her. Harriet is listed in the Talbot Estate document as being still alive and a recipient of the proceeds to the tune of £270-1-0, which suggests that she was still living at the date of the death of the last surviving annuitant – Eliza Hollings, her mother, on 19th October 1889.

Rather clutching at straws – there is a census record for 1891 which has a Harriet Hollings (single) working in Kensington in the Trotter household at 2 Phillimore Terrace – but if this is the same Harriet, her age is underestimated by about 10 years (although the transcript is very hard to read).⁸

James K Trotter	41	Major, Royal Artillery (Army)	Great Stainton, Durham
Alice Trotter	39		Great Stainton, Durham
Isabella R Trotter	11?		Aldershot, Hants
Lillian G K Trotter	10?		Camberley, Surrey
James K Trotter	2		Malta
Harriet Hollings	46?	Cook	Leeds, New Town
Eleanor Whaley?	36	Housemaid	Ingleton, Durham

The 1901 census has a listing of a Harriet Hollings, working as a cook for the Jenkins family at 40 York Place, Marylebone. The age for this Harriet tallies more closely with her estimated year of birth of 1836, although the birthplace is out of kilter.⁹

Eleanor Jenkins	65	Living on own means	Dover
Thomas Archer Jenkins (neph) (M)	41	Clerk	Gilston, Herts
Victor Thomas Porter (grand neph)	10	Schoolboy	America, Foreign Subject
Harriet Hollings	65	Cook	Richmond Hill, Yorkshire
Agnes Mary Richardson	25	Housemaid	Barnsbury, London

Another possibility was that Harriet finally married – and there is a BMD reference to a Harriet Hollings marrying in 1892 with the lucky man being either Tom Harrison or Charles Henry Johnson. This second possibility has been followed up and dismissed. A Harriet Hollings, spinster, did marry a Charles Johnson in October 1892, but this Harriet's father was listed as James Hollings, Warptwister and her age was given as 28.¹⁰

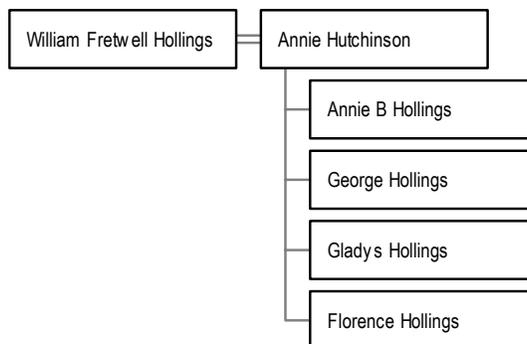


William Fretwell Hollings and Annie Hutchinson

For reasons that will shortly become apparent, I have decided to combine the accounts of William Fretwell Hollings and Annie Hutchinson.

Annie Hutchinson was the younger daughter of Alexander and Ann Hutchinson and was born in Leeds in 1860.¹¹ As noted above, she was living at home for the 1861, 1871 and 1881 census records.¹² However, as

Annie Hutchinson, she has not been located after the 1881 Census which suggested that she may well have married which would make her more difficult to trace.



Looking at the England and Wales BMD Index 1837-1983, there are 4 marriages listed for an Annie Hutchinson between 1881 and 1891 - 3 for the Leeds and 1 for the Hunslet district. A further inspection of the Index, however, brought up a surprising result, which had an Annie Hutchinson marrying a William Fretwell Hollings. Who was this Hollings, and why did he have the middle name of Fretwell? This quandary was followed up by ordering a copy of the marriage certificate from the Leeds registration office. Sure enough, it confirmed that after the calling of banns, Annie Hutchinson, spinster and daughter of Alexander Hutchinson, married William Fretwell Hollings, bachelor and drayman, on 7th December 1884 in the parish church of St Clements, Sheepscar. Witnesses to the marriage were the bride's father and her sister, Eliza Mary Hutchinson. Alexander's occupation was given as Warehouseman. Interestingly, the father of the groom was given as William Hollings, deceased.¹³ In fact, William Fretwell Hollings may not have known who his father was as he was the elder of two illegitimate sons of Harriet Hollings. Harriet was Annie's aunt, and so the two newly weds were first cousins.

At first I thought that William may have nominated his grandfather William Hollings as 'father' for the purposes of the certificate. However, it now seems that his grandfather was alive, if not well, in 1884. So who was the aforesaid William Hollings? As Harriet did not nominate a father on William J^{nr}'s birth certificate we do not know who he may have been.

At the time of the marriage, both William Fretwell and Annie Hutchinson were recorded as living at 49 Tramway Lane (which incidentally was the same address given by Annie's brother Francis Hutchinson on his marriage certificate – see notes above for Francis). Tramway Street runs across the top of Roscoe Street, where the senior Hutchinsons were living at the time. In fact, the Hollings and Hutchinson families all lived close to each other in this area of Leeds.

The birth of William Fretwell Hollings was registered in the sub-district of Holbeck on 27th September 1856 by his mother Harriet Hollings. William had been born at home at 13 Portland Street, Holbeck, on 13th September 1856. He has not been located in the 1861 census, when his mother seems to have been working as a domestic servant in Castlegate, York. When William makes his first census appearance he is in Newcastle where his mother had moved to some time after 1861. William is found as an inmate, along with nearly 100 other children aged from 7 to 16, at the Garth Heads Ragged and Industrial Schools, run by the Superintendent, Mr. Ralph Willoughby. This would have been a very different educational institution to those attended by his distant Fretwell, Dixon and Newton cousins.

There were several reasons under the Industrial Schools Act why children were enrolled in these schools, and one was that they were the children of single parents who couldn't cope or could not afford to send their children to any other school, as there was no such thing as free education. Harriet was managing a boarding house at the time and it is not know whether she couldn't afford anything else for William, whether there just was not room in the house, or whether she hoped that the rudimentary education would fit him to earn a living. It is interesting to note that she had the William's younger brother Thomas at home with her, but he was already earning his keep as an errand boy. The following is a brief description of the school attended by William.

The Ragged and Industrial School, off the City Road, on the site formerly known as "Garth Heads" was established in Sandgate on 11th August 1847, its object then being simply to feed and educate 50 poor children. It was next removed to Gibson Street, from 1848, and subsequently to the present site Jubilee Road in 1855. It is a purpose-built school with a structure of brick with stone dressings and has dormitories for 140 boys and 60 girls. The average attendance in 1892 was 128 boys and 54 girls. The children who live on the premises come under the provisions of the Industrial School and Elementary Education Act, other children

attend during the day only receiving food and education and returning to their homes at night. One half of the boys are under school instruction each day and the other half are employed in various industrial occupations. The boys in the workshops are under the care of trade instructors and a large amount of work is accomplished in printing, tailoring, shoemaking, sack making and fire wood chopping. There is an excellent boys' band of brass and reed instruments in connection with these schools. A seaside home is maintained at Whitley and all well conducted children have the privilege of a holiday at the seaside in the course of the year. The school was certified as an Industrial School on the 3rd June 1859 for 175 children, and re-certified on 28th September 1910 for 150 boys only.

It was administered by the Home Office and managed by a committee of gentlemen. In 1922 it was removed to Axwell Park, which had been adapted to meet the needs of the school and from 1933 it became an Approved School for 150 juniors. The old school buildings were demolished March 1973 and the remaining buildings were used as a Community Home by the Newcastle Council. Its final reincarnation occurred in 1986 when plans were drawn up for it to become a high-grade hotel.

I wonder if William conducted himself well enough to have a seaside holiday at Whitley during the time he was at the school. I am not so sure that the trades he may have learnt actually fitted him for his future work as a general labourer and corporation carter.

I have not located William in the 1881 census. His mother had returned to Leeds, and it is likely that he too was back there. Perhaps he was already living at Tramway Lane. So we now find William F and Annie Hollings in the 1891 Census with a young family, living at 5 Enfield Terrace, within the proverbial stone's throw from their relatives.¹⁴

William F Hollings	34	General Labourer	Leeds
Annie Hollings	31		Leeds
Annie B Hollings	5	Scholar	Leeds
George Hollings	2		Leeds

They have moved by 1901 to 13 Gledhow Place, Sheepscar, only a short distance away from the other family members, and have added to their family.¹⁵

William F Hollings	44	Corporation Carter	Leeds
Annie Hollings	41		Leeds
Annie B Hollings	15	Errand Girl	Leeds
George Hollings	12		Leeds
Florence Hollings	5		Menston (about 2 miles from Yeadon)
Gladys Hollings	1		Leeds

It is interesting to note that daughter Annie is already contributing to the household income and that Florence was born just near Yeadon, and this may be explained by the fact that her grandfather, William Hollings, came from Yeadon.

The fate of the family post March 1901 has yet to be established except to note that Kelly's 1908 Directory has William Fretwell Hollings living at 27 Gledhow Place.¹⁶ There is a possible 1913 death registration for William – William F Hollings, born about 1857, registered at Skipton, Yorkshire, but this has not yet been followed up.¹⁷ No FreeBMD death registration has been found for Annie Hollings.

Unlike the Hutchinson offspring it is more difficult to find likely birth registrations for these Hollings' children, so I do not have any transcripts on file.

Annie B Hollings	born abt 1886
George Hollings	born abt 1889
Gladys Hollings	born abt 1890
Florence Hollings	born abt 1896



Thomas Dixon Hollings



The birth of Thomas was heralded on 10th November 1858. He was born at home in Price Street, Bishophill Junior, in York to Harriet Hollings who registered his birth some 6 weeks later at the district of Micklegate on 20th December. Thomas Dixon Hollings was the second son known to be born to Harriet, and the birth certificate makes no mention of any father.¹⁸ As for his elder brother, William, no confirmed record has been found as to where Thomas may have been when the 1861 census was taken. It may be a bit far fetched, but a

Thomas D Hollands has been located in the household of one widow Ann Armstrong, at 62 Pickering Buildings, St Saviours, York.¹⁹

Ann Armstrong	49	Laundress	York City
Thomas Armstrong	15	Errand Boy	York City
Hannah Armstrong	11	Scholar	York City
Thomas D Hollands (Nursed Child)	2	General Servant	York City

Could the census transcriber have got the name wrong, and could Harriet have made arrangements for her son Thomas to be looked after?

Whether or not this was the case, Thomas D Hollings was, by 1871, back in the care of his mother. They and his older brother had moved the Newcastle. William, as noted already, was at the Ragged School, but Thomas is found living with his mother at 44 Blenheim Street, Westgate, Newcastle. Already, at the age of 12, Thomas is providing for the household as shop errand boy.²⁰

Thomas is next found, back at Leeds, as a boarder with the Sharp family at 58 St. George Street for the 1881 census.²¹ For some reason his birthplace is recorded as Leeds rather than York.

Mark Sharp	40	Hairdresser	Bacup, Lancashire
Emma Sharp	43		Darnall, Yorkshire
Albert Sharp	13	Scholar	Bradford
Thomas Hollings	24	Railway Station Porter	Leeds
Maude Wright (G'dau)	1		Leeds
Annie Robinson	20	General Servant	Ripon

Thomas's lodgings were not far away from the workplace of his future wife, Mary Dunigan, who was employed at the Queens Hotel, Wellington Street, Mill Hill. This must have been a large establishment and I will not list everyone who was there on the census night. Suffice to say that the Manager, James Allen, had a staff complement of nearly 50, of whom Mary Dunigan, aged 23 and hailing from Ireland was one, working as one of the kitchen maids.²²

On 14th August 1881 Thomas Dixon Fretwell married Mary Dunigan at St Annes Catholic Church, Park Lane. They were both 23 years old at the time and their 'condition' was respectively Bachelor and Spinster. The ceremony was performed by certificate by Richard Browne. Witnesses to the event were Thomas Joseph Hoos (who signed the certificate) and Mary Selina Reynolds, who made her mark. Mary's father is given as John Dunigan, Provision dealer, deceased. Thomas's father was listed as Thomas Hollings, Ironmonger, also deceased. The respective Leeds residences of the groom and bride were 4 Backwell Street and the Wellington Hotel.²³

It is of interest that Thomas's father is named, together with an occupation. Harriet, as noted above omitted to state the name of the father of her son. Whether the Thomas actually ever existed and who he might have been has not been established. It is somewhat odd that the fathers on both Harriet's sons' marriage certificates carried her own maiden name.

The marriage certificate also documents that by 1881 Thomas's occupation was Boots, while Mary was still described as a Servant. Perhaps Mary had been instrumental in finding her husband-to-be a position in the 'hospitality industry'.

Ten years later, for the 1891 census, Thomas and Mary are found at 8 St. James Place, Mill Hill.

Thos D Hollings	33	Hotel Servant	York
Mary A Hollings	33		Derry, Ireland

While Thomas is still working as a hotel servant, Mary is not given any occupation. The couple had been married almost ten years, but no children are listed.

Shortly after their 10th wedding anniversary Mary was a widow. As shown on his death certificate, Thomas Dixon Hollings died on 4th November 1892 at the young age of 34 at the Leeds Infirmary, of Aortic Disease, as certified by H. Cuff, MD. Thomas's occupation was listed as Hotel Porter, and his home address was given as 37 Reuben Street, Leeds. The informant was M. Allatt, Superintendent of the Leeds Infirmary and the death was registered on 11th November.²⁴

How much longer she lived and whether or not Mary remarried, and if so to whom, is not known at this stage.



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- ¹ IGI Individual Record Film Number 1842121.
- ² HO107/1344/8/-F32.
- ³ HO107/2321/p13-14.
- ⁴ RG10/3546/pp75-76.
- ⁵ I am not sure if Harriet, by giving her sons the middle names of Fretwell and Dixon, felt a very close affection for her extended family, or whether she had a somewhat warped sense of humour.
- ⁶ RG10/5074/p10.
- ⁷ RG11/4535/p1.
- ⁸ RG12/18/p28.
- ⁹ RG13/109/p1.
- ¹⁰ Certified copy of Marriage Certificate MXD035998.
- ¹¹ Leeds:SE/48/327.
- ¹² RG9/3365/p12; RG10/4558/p15; RG11/4524/p20.
- ¹³ Certified copy of Marriage Certificate AB102277.
- ¹⁴ RG12/3696/p37.
- ¹⁵ RG13/4226/p10.
- ¹⁶ 1908 Kelly's Directory of the West Riding of Yorkshire, Vol 2, p601.
- ¹⁷ FreeBMD Index.
- ¹⁸ Certified copy of Birth Certificate CN118886.
- ¹⁹ RG9/3551/p10.
- ²⁰ RG10/5074/p10.
- ²¹ RG11/4534/p12.
- ²² RG11/4537/pp18-20.
- ²³ Certified copy of Marriage Certificate AB104530.
- ²⁴ Certified copy of Death Certificate DYB388804.