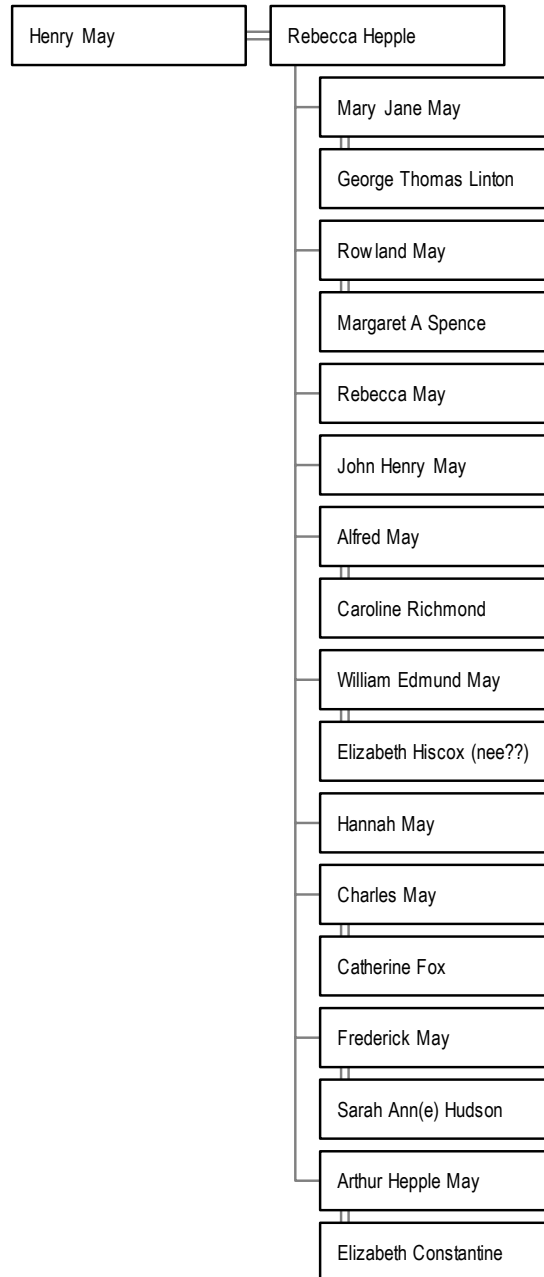


Henry May



Unlike his older siblings, there is quite a deal of information for Henry May. He is recorded as being baptised at Pickhill with Roxby on 16th May 1828.ⁱ He was at home for the 1841 census and again for the 1851 census.ⁱⁱ He was named as one of the Executors for the 1848 Will of John Fretwell, as Henry May of the Hope Nursery, Leeming Lane, Burneston in the Country of York, Nurseryman.ⁱⁱⁱ And in 1852 he married local girl Rebecca Hepple, which event was registered in the Bedale district in the Jan-Mar quarter.^{iv}

Rebecca was the daughter of Edmund and Jane Hepple and in the 1841 census the Hepple family (all born in Yorkshire) was at Ainderby. Unless there were some other older children not at home, Edmund and Jane had only daughters, two of whom, Rebecca and Hannah were twins, who had been baptised at Ainderby Steeple on 22nd May 1831.^v

Edmund Hepple	55	Ag Lab
Jane Hepple	55	Ag Lab
Sarah Hepple	15	
Margaret Hepple	12	
Hannah Hepple	10	

By the next census in 1851, shortly before Rebecca married Henry, the family is located in the village of Carthorpe (a small village very close to Burneston) and the elder daughters, who have married, are not at home.^v Margaret Wheldon was Rebecca's sister, William her brother-in-law, and Elizabeth Ann her niece. The parents' are now not agricultural labourers, but are running a farm.^{vi}

Edmund Hepple	65	Farmer of 60 Acres	Barton, Yorkshire
Jane Hepple	65	Wife of Farmer	Kepwick, Yorkshire
Hannah Hepple	19		Ainderby Steeple
Rebecca Hepple	19		Ainderby Steeple

Also in the house are :

Edward Baxter	11	Farm Labourer	Ainderby Steeple
John Jameson	20	Farm Labourer	Cowton, Yorkshire
William Wheldon (Visitor)	23	Draper	Northallerton
Margaret Wheldon (Visitor)	23	Draper's Wife	Ainderby Steeple
Elizabeth Ann Wheldon	2 mths		North Allerton

As noted above, by 1861 Mary May had retired and handed over the running of the family business to son Henry. This is confirmed by the 1861 census return when the address given for Henry and Rebecca is Hope Nursery, Burneston. From the birthplaces it would appear either that Henry and Rebecca spent the early years of their marriage at Carthorpe or Rebecca went home to have her first 3 babies.^{vii}

Henry May	33	Nurseryman employing 8 men & 1 boy	Pickhill
Rebecca May	29		Ainderby Steeple
Mary J May	8	Scholar	Carthorpe
Rowland May	6	Scholar	Carthorpe
Rebecca May	4	Scholar	Carthorpe
John H May	2		Burneston
Alfred May	1		Burneston
Mary Collier	17	General Housekeeper	Carthorpe

Ten years later, for the 1871 census, four more children have been added to the family and the Hope Nursery seems to be continuing to thrive. In this return daughter Rebecca is now listed as having been born in Burneston. Oldest son Rowland is now employed in the family business.^{ix}

Henry May	43	Occupying 30 Acres and employing 7 men and 4 boys	Pickhill
Rebecca May	39		Ainderby Steeple
Mary Jane May	18		Carthorpe
Rowland May	16	Nurseryman	Carthorpe
Rebecca May	14		Burneston
John H May	12	Scholar	Burneston
Alfred May	10	Scholar	Burneston
William E May	9	Scholar	Burneston
Hannah May	6	Scholar	Burneston
Charles May	5		Burneston
Fredrick May	3		Burneston

We know from the Talbot Capital account document that Henry May had died prior to the winding up of the account in October 1889. In fact, by the time of the 1881 census, Rebecca was a widow. According to a Bedale registration of death for the Oct-Dec quarter of 1880, Henry May died at the age of 54, leaving Rebecca was left to carry on the business and bring up their large family. In fact Henry died, not as the result of any illness, but through an accident. On the 3rd November 1880, at the Nursery, he fell from a gig. An inquest was held by John Stamford Walton the next day, and the death was registered on 6th November 1880.^x The term 'gig' could be used to describe any two-wheeled carriage with a fixed seat. Designed to carry the driver and one passenger, and usually drawn by one horse - although two could be harnessed to the shaft in tandem - it was a popular form of conveyance throughout the nineteenth century.

Rebecca is the head of the house for the 1881 census. Note that her given age is 50, but she would have been around 53. Another son has been added to the family since the previous Census and the Hope Nursery holding has been reduced by 4 acres.^{xi}

Rebecca May (W)	50	Nurseryman's widow 26 Acres of Land, employing 5 men & 3 Lads	Ainderby Steeple
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Mary Jane May	27		Burneston
John May	22	Nurseryman	Burneston
Alfred May	20	Nurseryman	Burneston
Hannah May	16		Burneston
Charles May	15	Nurseryman	Burneston
Frederic May	13		Burneston
Arthur H May	5		Burneston
Ellen Vasey	15	General Servant	Osmotherley

Not at home for Census night were sons Rowland and William, and daughter Rebecca. William has not been located but Rebecca was staying with Rowland, now married.

I have not found any record marking the birth of Hannah May, the second of two daughters of Henry and Rebecca May. However, it is thought that she was born about 1865 in Burneston. No census or other record has been found for her under the name May after 1881.

The last census record for Rebecca is 1891, about 5 years before she died. Although she is still listed as being in the nursery and seed trade, for this census the family is not listed as residing at Hope Nursery but as being at the New Inn, Burneston. Again her age does not quite tally with her estimated date of birth.^v

Rebecca May (W)	59	Nursery and Seed trade	Ainderby Steeple
John Henry May	32	Traveller	Burneston
Alfred May	30	Nurseryman Foreman	Burneston
Arthur May	15	Gardener	Burneston
Jane Ann Lonsdale	15	General Servant	Newby Wiske

Mary Jane is not at home as she married George Linton in 1888. Rebecca is also not at home - but is found in the Linton household. Charles and Frederick have found jobs away from home.

Rebecca's was registered for the Bedale district for the 1986 December Quarter. She died one day short of the sixteenth anniversary of her late husband's death, at the Hope Nursery on 2nd November, aged 65, of Hemiplegia (7 days), probable the result of a stroke. Her son John Henry was present at her death.^{xiii}



ⁱ IGI Individual Record Batch No C010922.

ⁱⁱ HO107/1248/4/~F10; HO107/2378/p20.

ⁱⁱⁱ Copy of Will in family records.

^{iv} FreeBMD Marriage Index.

^v HO107/1243/1/p10. Individual IGI Records Batch No C039631.

^{vi} FreeBMD Marriage Indexes.

^{vii} HO107/2373/p11.

^{viii} RG9/3665/p11.

^{ix} RG10/4866/p11.

^x FreeBMD Death Index; certified copy of Death Certificate DYB472935.

^{xi} RG11/4871/p10.

^{xii} RG12/4028/p8.

^{xiii} FreeBMD Death Index; certified copy of Death Certificate DYB472943. Full or partial paralysis of one side of the body due to disease, trauma or stroke.