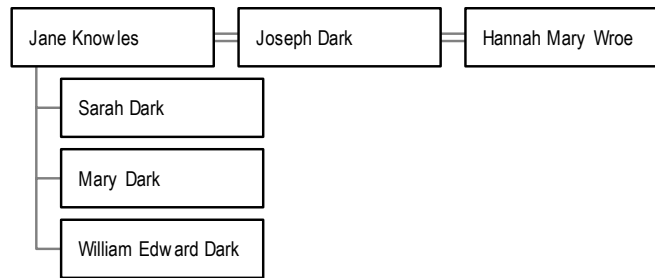


Joseph Dark



According to the FreeBMD Birth Index, the birth of a John Joseph Dark was registered for the Oct-Dec quarter 1837 at Norwich Norfolk. According to the census returns for 1841, 1851, and 1861^{iv}, Thomas and Sarah Dark had a son named Joseph Dark and he was found at home for these three census nights. At this stage I am assuming that John Joseph and Joseph are one and the same.

Joseph has been a bit of a research problem as the various census transcribers have confused the numbers 3 and 8, so for some returns Joseph's estimated date of birth is 1833 and for others it is 1838. I have opted for the age given for Joseph (3 years old) for the 1841 census as the correct one.

In 1861 Joseph's occupation was described as Iron Turner. However, by the 1871 census he had moved to Castleford near Pontefract where he was living in Albert Street and was employed as a glass stopper maker. In the intervening period he had also married and he and his wife had two daughters.^v

Joseph Dark	33	Glass Stopper Maker	Norwich City
Jane Dark	33		South Milford, Yorkshire
Sarah Dark	2		Castleford
Mary Dark	1		Castleford
Jane Rainbow	9	Domestic Servant	Castleford

A check of the FreeBMD records indicates a marriage between a Joseph Dark and a Jane Knowles for the Jul-Sep quarter of 1867 in the Castleford district.^{vi} Strongly supporting Jane as being Joseph Dark's wife is the fact that for the 1871 census their immediate neighbours at Albert Street are one John Knowles and his family.^{vii} A check on earlier census returns provides the following information about this Knowles family. In 1851 they were living in South Milford, in the parish of Sherburn.^{viii}

John Knowles	42	Farm Labourer	South Milford
Sarah Knowles	32		South Milford
Jane Knowles	13	Scholar	South Milford
John Knowles	11	Scholar	South Milford
William Knowles	7		South Milford
James Knowles	5		South Milford
George Knowles	9 mo		South Milford

Before her marriage, Jane Knowles was working as a domestic servant for a widowed "Lady" in High Street, Brotherton, just north of Pontefract.^{ix}

Elizabeth Watson	50	Lady	Kippax, Yorkshire
Jane Knowles	21*	Servant	South Milford

Here we have another example of an "elastic" age.

By 1881 Joseph and Jane had moved to 44 Cambridge Street in Castleford and their family had increased by one son, William. Joseph was still working as a glass stopper maker.^x

Joseph Dark	48	Glass Stopper Maker	Norwich
Jane Dark	43		Milford
Sarah Dark	12	Scholar	Castleford
Mary Dark	11	Scholar	Castleford
William Dark	8	Scholar	Castleford

A number of Joseph's neighbours were also involved in some way or another with glass making. In fact the Castleford glass industry dates back to 1829 and by the late 1880s was Castleford was reputed to be the largest bottle manufacturing centre in Britain, producing over twenty million bottles annually, mainly for export. Ten years later for the 1891 census Joseph Dark is located still at 44 Cambridge Street, and still a glass bottle maker. Two of his children are still at home and his wife is now listed as Hannah M Dark, born in Yarmouth.^{xi}

Joseph Dark	53	Glass Stopper Maker	Norwich
Hannah M Dark	36		Yarmouth, Norfolk
Mary Dark	21		Castleford
William E Dark	18	Pawnbroker's Apprentice	Castleford

It appears that his first wife, Jane, died in the Oct-Dec quarter 1883 and Joseph remarried Hannah Mary Wroe one year later in the Oct-Dec quarter. Both Jane's death and the marriage between Joseph and Hannah were registered in the Pontefract district.^x Hannah was the daughter of Martha Wroe, wife of a Mariner, whose name has not yet been established. In 1851 Hannah was at home with her mother and siblings at 30 Price(?) Place, Great Yarmouth.^{xi}

Martha Wroe	33	Mariner's Wife	Hull
John J Wroe	9	Scholar	Gt Yarmouth
Hannah M Wroe	6	Scholar	Gt Yarmouth
Martha Wroe	4	Scholar	Gt Yarmouth
Eliza A Wroe	2	Scholar	Gt Yarmouth
Maria Carrol	14	Servant of all Work	Gt Yarmouth

Ten years later she had left home and was working in Leeds as a domestic servant for the Herbert family of 12 Carlton Street, North West Leeds.^{xii}

George Herbert	31	Commercial Traveller in the Grocery Trade	Leeds
Sarah Herbert	29		Sherriff Hutton, Yorkshire
Rachael Herbert	5		Leeds
Beatrice Herbert	3		Leeds
George Herbert	1		Leeds
Hannah M Wroe	16	General Servant	Gt Yarmouth

There are no recorded children born to Joseph and Hannah who, by 1901, had moved from Yorkshire to Lancashire where they living at 121 Tame Street, Ancoats, Manchester and were running an inn – instead of making bottles, he was now filling them!^{xiii}

Joseph Dark	62	Inn Keeper – Beer Retailer on own account at home	Norwich
Hannah M Dark	46	Beer Retailer on own account at home	Yarmouth

There is a FreeBMD record which registers the death in the Apr-Jun quarter of 1906 in the Manchester district of a Joseph Dark aged 68. Nothing further has been found to indicate what happened to Hannah after 1901.



Sarah Dark

Sarah Dark, the eldest known child of Joseph and Jane Dark, was born about 12 months after her parents' marriage, with the birth registered in the Pontefract district for the Jul-Sep quarter of 1868.^{xiv} She was at home for both the 1871 and 1881 census nights but by the 1891 census was working as a domestic for widow Hannah Wadsworth and her family at 15 Cottage Road, Headingley cum Burley.^{xv}

Hannah Wadsworth	63	Living on own Means	Leeds
John W Wadsworth	37	Commercial Traveller	Leeds
Sarah Dark	24	General Domestic	Castleford

Still unmarried in 1901, Sarah is recorded as a member of the Smith household at 2 Britannia Place, Armley, Leeds. It is interesting to note that her relationship is Cousin and it is likely that Eleanor, also born in Castleford, is the family link and that Sarah was in the house to assist her following the birth of the youngest child. The transcriber had some difficulty with the names as shown by the names in brackets below.^{xvi}

Fletcher (Flakhar) Smith	36	Railway Clerk	Earlsheaton
Eleanor Smith	35		Castleford
Mabel Smith	12		Ovenden
Clifford Newman (Newsome) Smith	10		Ovenden
Edgar Smith	8		Ovenden
Eleluse (?) Smith	2		Armley
Cecilia Ammica (?) Smith	1 mo	Armley	
Sarah Dark (Dack) (Cousin)	32	Monthly Nurse	Castleford

What happened to Sarah Dark after this is not known. There is a possible marriage registration for a Sarah Dark in the Jul-Sep quarter at Bramley for 1902 and a less likely one for the Oct-Dec quarter in Swansea, but these have not been checked out.^{xvii}

Mary Dark

While it is almost certain that the Pontefract birth registration for the Jan-Mar quarter of 1870 is that of Mary Dark, second child and younger daughter of Joseph and Jane Dark and that Mary was at home with her family for the 1871, 1881 and 1891 census counts^{xvii} she has been difficult to track down for the 1901 census. The reason for this is that she died on 10th December 1896, at her parents house at 121 Tame Street. She was only 26 and had been working as a domestic servant. The cause of death was “Phthisis 4 months” and it was her sister Sarah who was present at the death and was the Informant.^{xix}

William Edward Dark

The birth of Joseph and Jane’s youngest known child, and only son, was registered in the 1871 Oct-Dec quarter at Pontefract.^{xv} At home for the 1881 and 1891 census, where he is recorded for the latter as a watch maker, William is found as a boarder with the Chadwick family at Clifton Villa, Barnes Road, Castleford, for the 1901 census.^{xvi}

Edmund Chadwick	52	Retired Farmer	Barwick in Elmet
Emma Chadwick	52		Ferrybridge
Harry Price	18	Draper Assistant	Castleford
Louisa Price	16		Castleford (deaf and dumb)
William Dark (Boarder)	30	Watchmaker	Castleford
Martha Durrington (Boarder)	23	School Teacher	Cambridgeshire

Both Price children were born in Castleford^{xvii}, and it is likely that the Price and Dark families were acquainted and this was the reason that William was boarding with the Chadwicks.

On checking the 1891 census we discover that, at that time, Edmund was a single man living at home with his father, brother and twin sisters, plus niece, at Pinder Green, Methley, and that Emma was a widow, living at 21 Bridge Street, Castleford, next door to the Bridge Hotel. So when Edmund relinquished his bachelordom and married Emma Price in 1893 he took on quite a responsibility, particularly with Louisa’s affliction, with his new ready made family.^{xviii}

Edwin Chadwick	75	Farmer	Oulton, Yorkshire
Edmund Chadwick	42	Farmer	Barwick in Elmet
Henry Chadwick	35	Farmer	Methley
Mary Ann Chadwick	30(twins)		Methley
Sarah Elizabeth Chadwick	30		Methley
Ellen Chadwick (GdDaug)	14	Pupil Teacher	Methley
Emma Price	41	Licensed Victualler	Ferrybridge
Hannah M Price	18		Castleford
Arthur Price	14		Castleford
Louisa Price	6		Wakefield (deaf and dumb)
Hannah Shepherd	21	Barmaid	Knottingley
Frances Owen	18	Domestic Servant Gen	Oakengates (?), Shropshire
Mary A Bounds	16	Domestic Servant Gen	Walsall, Staffordshire

William is listed in the Castleton section of Kelly’s 1908 Directory of the West Riding of Yorkshire as :

Dark William, watch maker and jeweller, 65 Albion Street.^{xxiv}

And, at this stage, this is as far as we have got for William Edward Dark.

ⁱ FreeBMD Birth Index.
ⁱⁱ HO107/788/7/p9; HO107/2318/p23; RG9/3367/p16.
ⁱⁱⁱ RG10/4639/p12.
^{iv} FreeBMD Marriage Index.
^v RG10/4639/p12.
^{vi} HO107/2329/pp4-5.
^{vii} RG9/3434/p15.
^{viii} RG11/4593/pp24-25.
^{ix} RG12/3763/p20.
^x FreeBMD Death Index; Free BMD Marriage Index.
^{xi} RG/91191/p40.
^{xii} RG10/4559/p2.

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- ^{xiii} RG13/3745/p22.
^{xiv} Free BMD Birth Index.
^{xv} RG10/4639/p12; RG11/4593/pp24-25; RG12/3710/pp34-35.
^{xvi} RG13/4213/p3.
^{xvii} FreeBMD Marriage Index.
^{xviii} FreeBMD Birth Index; RG10/4639/p12; RG11/4593/pp24-25; RG12/3763/p20.
^{xix} Free BMD Death Index Manchester 1837-1924; Certified copy of Death Certificate DYB686662.
^{xx} Free BMD Birth Index.
^{xxi} RG11/4593/pp24-25; RG12/3763/p20; RG13/4304/p27.
^{xxii} Although in the 1891 Census Louisa's place of birth is given as Wakefield.
^{xxiii} FreeBMD Marriage Index; RG12/3762/p5; RG12/3764/p29.
^{xxiv} Kelly's 1908 Directory of the West Riding of Yorkshire, Vol 1,p168.