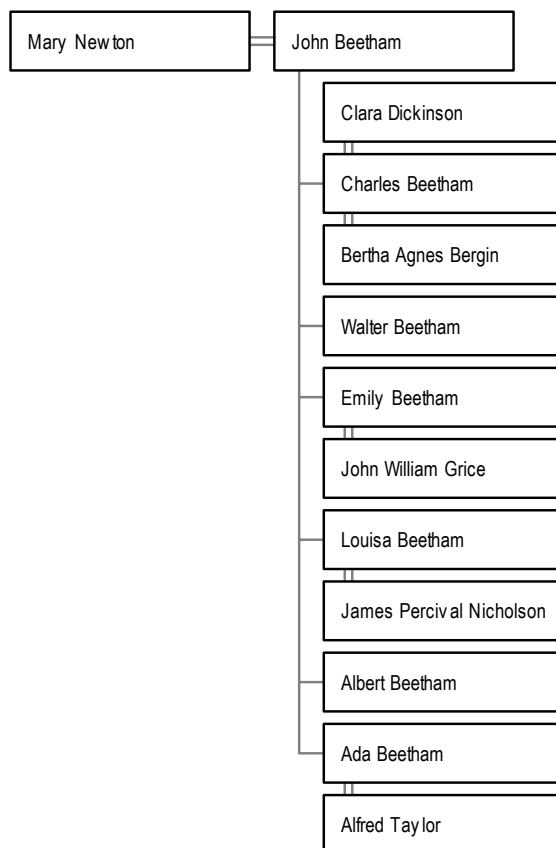


Mary Newton



Mary, the youngest known child, and second of three daughters born to Ann Kay and John Newton, was born in Leeds in 1823.^v Mary was living at home at 23 St. Paul's Street, Leeds, for both the 1841 and the 1851 census.[#] The 1851 census was conducted on 30th March and just short of four years later, somewhat later in life than was customary Mary married and became Mrs. Beetham. She and John Beetham were married by licence in the parish church of Leeds (St. Peter's) on the 26th February 1855.

The bride was described as the 31 year old spinster daughter of John Newton, Letter Carrier, and she was living at the time at St Paul's Street. John was the 34 year old bachelor son of Charles Beetham who (rather grandiosely) referred to himself as 'farmer'. At the time of the wedding, John's address was West Street, Leeds.^v Witnesses to the ceremony were Mary's brother George Newton and a second man whose name is difficult to decipher, but looks like Edwin Meesy(?).^v

John was the son of Charles and Ann Beetham, who were both born in Yorkshire and who, for the 1841 were living at Hemsworth, which is just south of Pontefract.^w

Charles Beetham	60	Agricultural Labourer
Ann Beetham	45	
Thomas Beetham	14	
Ellen Beetham	12	
Sarah Beetham	10	
Elizabeth Beetham	7	
Henry Beetham	4	

There may have been older children not at home, and certainly this includes John Beetham. John who was born in 1820, and baptised on 1st October 1820 at Hemsworth^w had, by 1841 moved to Leeds, where he was living and working at Lower Head Row along with many others who presumably were all shop assistants of varying ranks, with silk merchant John Gee.^w Lower Head Row was a bustling commercial area, and was where the Fretwells had for many years run a grocery business from number 4.

By 1851 John had progressed and was now working with John Wilkinson as a draper's assistant at premises at 108 and 109 West Street, Leeds.^x

John Wilkinson	41	Linen Draper	Halifax
John Beetham	30	Assistant Draper	Hemsworth
James Townend	35	Assistant Draper	Bradford
Thomas Mould	26	Assistant Draper	Manchester
Benjamin H Smith	23	Assistant Draper	Bingley
Joshua Hartley	19	Assistant Draper	Leeds
John Corps(?)	38	Assistant Draper	Kirkby Moor
Edward Riddle(?)	20	Assistant Draper	Staffordshire
George Gelder	17	Porter	Hive, Yorks
John Marburton(?)	15	Porter	Halifax
Jane Welles	37	Housekeeper	Chester

It is interesting to note that Mary's great uncle John Fretwell, in his 1848 Will, directed :

To my great nieces Elizabeth and Mary Newton daughters of my niece Ann Newton my freehold dwellinghouse situate in West Street Leeds in the occupation of Thomas Chapman during their joint lives and on the decease of the survivor of them to their brother Francis Newton.

1851 finds a Thomas Chapman, aged 72 and a retired cloth manufacturer, living at 108 Pinfold Lane Hunslet.^x If this is the same Thomas referred to in the will, he had presumably vacated the West Street premises on retirement, which were possibly then leased by John Wilkinson. If this is the case, John Beetham and Mary Newton would have been well acquainted for some time before they married.

According to Barry Woods, John Wilkinson and John Beetham were apparently in business together at some time and operated what they grandiosely designated a Mill (but which may have been more aptly described as factory) from 23 St. Paul's Street, Leeds.^{xii} This building, owned by John Fretwell, was also in use either concurrently, or at various times, as a residence and, as previously mentioned, a lodging house run by John Beetham's mother-in-law, Ann Newton, and bequeathed to her and her husband by her uncle John Fretwell.

John's parents Charles and Ann were still alive and still living at Hemsworth when the 1851 census was conducted. The enumerator had a bit of difficulty with the surname, as it is recorded as Beatham.^{xiii}

Charles Beatham	70	Annuitant from Hemsworth Hospital	Badworth
Ann Beatham	67		Hemsworth
Henry Beatham	16		Hemsworth

The descriptor for Charles as an annuitant from Hemsworth hospital suggests that he was not a well man by 1851. I am not sure if he was a permanent resident at the hospital, enjoying a day at home when the census was conducted, or whether he was a regular patient at the hospital, but living at home.

In 1861 we find Mary and husband John, now a businessman in his own right, still living and operating from 106-108 West Street.^{xiv}

John Beetham	40	Linen Draper employing five Assistants, two Apprentices and one Errand Boy	Hemsworth
Mary Beetham	37		Leeds
John Warburton	26	Assistant	Northowram
Marmaduke S Clarkson	21	Assistant	Silsden
George Janeson Groves	22	Assistant	Whitby
Edward Armitage	23	Assistant	Heckmondwike
George William Smith	20	Assistant	Leeds
William Sugden	17	Apprentice	Silsden
Robert Precious	17	Apprentice	Hive
William Lund	15	Errand Boy	Silsden
Hannah Hinchcliffe	44	Cook	Wakefield
Margaret Abercrombie	20	Housemaid	Scotland

It is interesting to note that 3 of the employees were born in Silsden, which is about 10 miles or so northwest of Bradford and quite some distance from Leeds.

John and Mary had been married for 7 years, but if they had any children, they were not living at home on 7th April 1861. A check on Ann Beetham, for the 1861 census reveals that John and Mary had, in fact, three children, all staying with their paternal grandmother, who is by now, and not surprisingly, a widow. Apart from the three grandchildren, unmarried children Thomas and Elizabeth are also in the household at Hemsworth.^{xv} In April 1861 Mary would have been pregnant with her next child and maybe she appreciated a short rest from looking after the

other three.

Ann Beetham	68	Late Farmer's Wife	Hemsworth
Thomas Beetham	34	Grocer	Hemsworth
Elizabeth Beetham	26		Hemsworth
Ellen Sykes	18	Servant	Shafton
Charles Beetham (Gson)	5		Leeds
Walter Beetham (Gson)	4		Leeds
Emily Beetham (GDaug)	1		Leeds

An 1858 death registered in Hemsworth for the Jul-Sep quarter signals the passing of Charles Beetham, aged about 78.^{xv} To complete the account of John's parents – Ann was still alive for the 1871 census and was found with her son Charles (yet another son who had not married and who had followed his brother Thomas in the grocery business) and daughter Elizabeth at Ackworth, not far from Hemsworth.^{xvi}

Henry Beetham	34	Grocer	Hemsworth
Ann Beetham (mother)	77		Hemsworth
Elizabeth Beetham (sister)	35	Housekeeper	Hemsworth

Ann, who had been about 15 years younger than her husband, outlived him by almost 20 years. Her death was registered at Hemsworth, for the Oct-Dec quarter of 1876. She was 83 years old when she died.^{xvii}

1871 finds the Beethams at St. Paul's Street, Leeds, next door to Mary's aunt Isabella Todd and her cousin Julia Woodhead (née Todd), and three more children have been added to the family since 1861.^{xviii}

John Beetham	50	Linen Draper	Hemsworth
Mary Beetham	47		Leeds
Charles Beetham	15	Scholar	Leeds
Walter Beetham	14	Scholar	Leeds
Emily Beetham	11	Scholar	Leeds
Louisa Beetham	9	Scholar	Leeds
Albert Beetham	7	Scholar	Leeds
Ada Beetham	5	Scholar	Leeds
Maria Bowman	29	Domestic Servant	Ripon
Maria Snowden	29	Domestic Servant	Corby, Northamptonshire

By 1881 the family has moved to 11 Moorland Road, West Leeds, and John has retired.^{xix} Walter, who had been born in 1857, is not listed as he had died aged just 17 in 1874.^{xx} Charles was living/working at Marshall and Snelgroves. With a cook and a domestic servant in the household, the two elder daughters seem to have been ladies of leisure, as would befit the daughters of a successful businessman!

John Beetham	60	Retired Linen Draper	Hemsworth
Mary Beetham	57		Leeds
Emily Beetham	20	No occupation	Leeds
Louisa Beetham	19	No occupation	Leeds
Albert Beetham	17	Mechanical Engineer	Leeds
Ada Beetham	15	Scholar	Leeds
Anne Caton	21	Domestic Servant	Ramsey, Huntingdon
Ann E Dolphin	25	Domestic Cook	Methley

The 1881 census was the last appearance of son Albert who had been born in 1864. It is known that he left England at some stage to live in Zanzibar, where he died in 1892. Whether or not he married is not known.^{xxi}

Within about 18 months of the 1881 census, John died at home, at 11 Moorland Road, on 20th October 1882, at the relatively young age of 62. Gentleman, retired Mill Owner and Linen Draper, he was buried at St. Peter's, Leeds.^{xxii} For the 1891 census, widowed Mary Beetham is visiting her, now married, daughter Ada at Lindly(?) House, Holgate York.^{xxiii}

Alfred Taylor	27	Mechanical Engineer & Draughtsman	Leeds
Ada Taylor	25		Leeds
Mary Beetham (Vis)	67	Living on own means	Leeds
Annie M Welsh	24	Domestic Servant	Howden, Yorks

Mary outlived John by some 18 years and apparently left Leeds some time after her husband's death. Apart from anything she might have inherited from her late husband, she would have come into a substantial sum of money (£450) from the proceeds of Talbot Estate which were disbursed following the death of Eliza Hollings, her 2nd cousin

and the last surviving annuitant, in October 1889.^{xxv} So she would have been well set for her old age.

When she drew up her will on 23rd October 1895 Mary was living at Market Square, Warwick. She was most likely living at this stage of her life with her daughter Emily and son-in-law John Grice who, as one of the Executors, was described as Draper of the Market Square, Warwick. The other Executor was another son-in-law, Alfred Taylor of Pollvellan, Holgate Hill, York, Engineer. Apart from bequests to her children and their offspring, she bequeathed a legacy of £50 free of duty to her spinster sister-in-law, Elizabeth Beetham, who had probably spent her life housekeeping for her unmarried brothers, and who was still living in the Beetham home town of Hemsworth.^{xxv}

At some stage after October 1895 she moved to Pattishall, Northamptonshire, not far from Northampton, probably with her daughter and son-in-law who had also moved to Pattishall by this time. And it was here that she died aged 77, on 16th June 1900. The certificate records her as the widow of John Beetham, Woollen Merchant, and the cause of death as Acute Gastritis and Cardiac Failure. John Grice was present at her death and was the Informant.^{xxvi} Probate on her will was granted to John Grice and Alfred Taylor on 26th September 1900.^{xxvii}



ⁱ I have had considerable assistance with Mary's account from Barry Wood of Neutral Bay, Sydney, who is a direct descendent of Mary and John Beetham.

ⁱⁱ An IGI Family Group Record has her being baptised on 8th June 1823 at St. Peter's, Leeds.

ⁱⁱⁱ HO107/1346/6/pp5-6; HO107/2321/p39.

^{iv} It is interesting to note that John Fretwell owned property at West Street, and it may be that John Beetham occupied the premises prior to his marriage.

^v Certified copy of Marriage Certificate W0005432/B.

^{vi} HO107/1323/p16.

^{vii} BW's notes.

^{viii} HO107/1349/1/p22.

^{ix} HO107/2321/p23.

^x HO107/2314/p25.

^{xi} BW's notes.

^{xii} HO107/2331/p3.

^{xiii} RG/9/3391/p20.

^{xiv} RG/9/3441/pp1-2.

^{xv} FreeBMD Death Index.

^{xvi} RG10/4641/pp18-19).

^{xvii} FreeBMD Death Index.

^{xviii} RG/10/4568/p58.

^{xix} RG11/4535/p4.

^{xx} FreeBMD Death Index.

^{xxi} FreeBMD Birth Index; BW's notes.

^{xxii} FreeBMD Death Index.

^{xxiii} RG/12/3890/p12.

^{xxiv} Equivalent to £26,950.50 as at February 2007; Document in family records.

^{xxv} Copy of will on file.

^{xxvi} FreeBMD Death Index; BW's notes; Certified copy of Death Certificate DYB686735.

^{xxvii} Copy of Will on file.