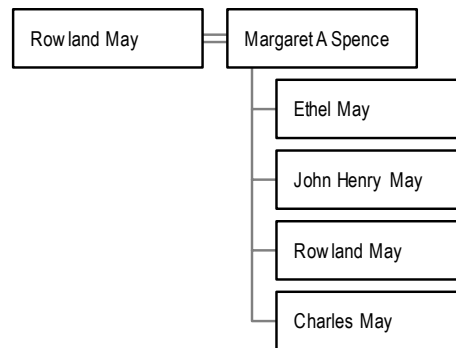


Rowland May



Rowland was the second born, and the first son of Henry and Rebecca May. I have not found any record of his birth, but he was born about 1855 at Carthorpe. He was at home as a 5 year old scholar in 1861 and as a nurseryman in 1871.ⁱ By the time of the 1881 census he had married and set up house at Market Place, Leyburn, about 12 miles east of Burneston, and the birthplace of his wife. He was still in the nursery business. With the family was Rowland's sister Rebecca, the same person who was with George Linton ten years later.ⁱⁱ

Rowland May	26	Nurseryman and Seedman	Carthorpe
Margaret A May	25		Leyburn
Ethel May	2		Leyburn
Rebecca May (Boarder)	24	Dressmaker	Burneston
Hannah Clarkson	14	General Servant Domestic	West Witton

Rowland May and Margaret Spence registered their marriage at Leyburn during the Jul-Sep quarter of 1877. Margaret, born about 1856, was the daughter of John and Ann Spence and in 1861 her father was running the Green Tree Inn in Grove Square, Leyburn.ⁱⁱⁱ

John Spence	26	Inn Keeper & Farmer of 21 Acres	Leyburn
Ann Spence	24	Inn Keeper's Wife	Coverham Lane
Mary Spence	11	Scholar	Leyburn
Margaret Spence	5	Scholar	Leyburn
Alice Spence	2	Scholar	Leyburn
Martha M Spence	1		Leyburn
Jane Pickles	20	House and General Servant	Carperby

And John was still running the Inn ten years later for the 1871 census, by which time his first wife had died sometime after the birth of John Spence in about 1866. Apart from the children Amelia and John, his family has been augmented by another daughter by his second wife.^{iv}

John Spence	48	Inn Keeper	Leyburn
Isabella Spence	38	Inn Keeper's Wife	Scotland, Aberdeen.
Margaret Spence	15	Scholar	Leyburn
Alice Spence	13	Scholar	Leyburn
Martha M Spence	11	Scholar	Leyburn
Amelia Spence	7	Scholar	Leyburn
John M Spence	6	Scholar	Leyburn
Isabella Spence	9 mth		Leyburn
Mary A Hepple	39	Domestic Servant	Melsonby, Yorks
Charles McDonald	16	Stable boy	Hope, Yorks

The home help, Mary Hepple, was a daughter of a William and Mary Hepple and a relative of Rebecca Hepple, Margaret's future mother-in-law. Rowland makes his final census appearance in 1891, still running a nursery business at Market Place Leyburn. In the intervening years, 3 more children have been born – all boys, and all having been given familiar May names.^v

Rowland May	36	Nurseryman (Employer)	Carthorpe
Margaret A May	35		Leyburn
Ethel May	12	Scholar	Leyburn
John H May	11	Scholar	Leyburn
Rowland May	9	Scholar	Leyburn
Charles May	7	Scholar	Leyburn
Annie Hutchinson	15	General Servant	Middleham

Rowland is listed in an 1893 Kelly Directory as still operating the nursery at Leyburn.^{vii} Although no records have been found relating to Rowland's death, he was another May to die relatively young - sometime between 1893 and 1897 as we find his widow Margaret remarried and with a 3 year old child for the 1901 Census. She was now married to a much younger man (although no record of their marriage has yet been found), and is found for the 1901 Census living in at 6 Camberwell Green, London. Both husband and wife are operating a florist business. William's stepdaughter (who was only 6 years his junior) is a visitor at the time of the census, but we do not know whether or not this was a long-stay arrangement.^{viii}

William Richardson	28	Florist (Employer)	Leeds
Margaret A Richardson	45	Florist	Leyburn
Eva Richardson	3		Fulham, Middlesex
Ethel May (Visitor)	22		Leyburn

Margaret's three sons are not with her and her second husband for the 1901 census but have been found in various households. How William and Margaret met, and what he was doing before they did so, has not been established. We know that he was born in Leeds, but so were a number of other Richardsons with the name William and of a similar age, which makes tracking him down difficult. A copy of a marriage certificate might be able to shed some light on this. Whether William and Margaret had any more children is not known - but given her age it would seem unlikely.



Ethel May

Ethel was the first born child of Rowland and Margaret A May (née Spence) and they registered her birth during the Oct-Dec quarter of 1878 in the Leyburn district.^{ix} She was at home at Leyburn for the 1881 and 1891 censuses.^x After her father died her mother remarried to a much younger man and Ethel is listed with her mother and step-father for the 1901 census, as a visitor, which suggests that she was not a permanent member of the household at 6 Camberwell Green, London.^{xi}

William Richardson	28	Florist (Employer)	Leeds
Margaret A Richardson	45	Florist	Leyburn
Eva Richardson	3		Fulham, Middlesex
Ethel May (Visitor)	22		Leyburn

The census does not give any hint as to whether Ethel was trained for any particular occupation, and we will have to wait until the release of the 1911 census to find out where she may have been at that time. If she did stay in the Camberwell area, a marriage registration for that district for the Apr-Jun quarter of 1907 may be worth following up. The Ethel May of this record probably married either Henry Allen or Alfred John Coldman.^{xii}



John Henry May

The first official record for John Henry May, the first son born to Rowland and Margaret, was his birth registration at Leyburn in the first quarter of 1880, so he and his sister Ethel would have been very close in age. As a young boy of 11, John was at home with his family for the 1891 census.^{xiii} Ten years later we see that he definitely did not follow in his father's and grandfather's line of business. Where he did his apprenticeship is not known, nor is how soon after 1891 he moved to Manchester. But by 1901 he was boarding in the Powell household as 188 London Road, Oxford Ward, Manchester.^{xiv}

Richard Powell	29	Hosiery Salesman	Manchester
Mary M Powell	31		Ireland
Richard L Powell	6 mths		Manchester
Margaret D Goff (S-i-L)(M)	28		Waitress (Dom) Ireland
John H May (Boarder)	21	Journeyman Butcher	Leyburn
John Triffett (Boarder)	26	Journeyman Butcher	Lincolnshire
Kate Buckingham	21	Housemaid	Portmadoc, Wales

If John married, and to whom and where, remains to be seen. A search on John Henry May for the years 1901 to 1920 provides a number of possibilities.^{xv}



Rowland May

The third child of Rowland and Margaret May, Rowland is the only one for whom a birth registration has not been located. However we know that he was born about 1882 in Leyburn and that he was home at Leyburn in

April 1891.^{xvi} Like his older brother, Rowland did not become a gardener. However, unlike John, Rowland remained in the Leyburn area after their father died. In fact, in 1901 he was living with spinster Alice Spence at 38 High Street, Leyburn.^{xvii}

Alice Spence	66	Boot and Shoe Dealer (Shopkeeper) on own account	Leyburn
Lillian Spence (Niece)	31	Assistant in Boot and Shoe Shop	Middleham
Rowland May (Nephew)	19	Plumber's Apprentice	Leyburn

At first I thought Alice might be Rowland's mother's sister, but looking at the ages of the two, this would not be possible. However, Alice might have been an aunt to Margaret. Given Alice's occupation, she was more than likely the daughter of a shoemaker, Matthew Spence, who with his family, including a daughter Alice aged 7, was found living at Mill Gate, Leyburn for the 1841 census.^{xviii} Perhaps Rowland was her great nephew.

Lillian was also living with Alice who is stated to be her aunt. Lillian has been difficult to trace apart from one reference – the 1881 census – which has a Lillian living with her widowed mother at Netton Villa, Leyburn.^{xix}

Rebecca Spence (W)	34	Charwoman	Middleham
Lilian Spence	12	Scholar	Leyburn

Rebecca's relationship to the Spence family would be explained if she was the wife of William Spence, who was also the William listed as Alice Spence's brother for the 1841 census. A marriage at Leyburn between a Rebecca Brown and a William Spence was registered in the Oct-Dec quarter of 1871, and there is also a likely Leyburn death registration at age 51 for a William Spence for the Jan-Mar quarter of 1880.^{xx}



Charles May

None of the May sons of Rowland and Margaret were, either by inclination or circumstance, involved in the horticultural industry. It may have been that the Leyburn nursery was sold or closed down after the death of Rowland, for as we have seen his widow had decamped to London, unlike her mother-in-law Rebecca who, after her husband died, continued to manage the Hope Nursery at Burneston until it was taken over by her son John Henry May.

The youngest of the children of Rowland and Margaret May, Charles's birth was registered in the Leyburn district in the 1884 Oct-Dec quarter.^{xxi} He was with his parents for the 1891 census and would have been a young boy when his father died within a few years of this census.^{xxii}

As a young man, ten years later, Charles is living in the Cloughton household at 13 Railway Street Leyburn.

Fanny Cloughton (S)	80	Living on her own means	Leyburn
Jane Greenwood (Niece)	34	Confectioner & Baker (Own Account)	Manchester
Charles May (Boarder)	17	Grocer's Apprentice	Leyburn



ⁱ RG9/3665/p11; RG10/4866/p11.

ⁱⁱ RG11/4874/p13.

ⁱⁱⁱ RG9/3668/p2.

^{iv} RG10/4869/pp4-5.

^v She is listed with her parents at Melsonby for the 1851 census as a 2 year old – HO107/2381/p8.

^{vi} RG12/4031/pp9-10.

^{vii} Kelly's Directory of N & E Ridings of Yorkshire, 1893 [Part 2: Court & Trade Directories and Hull].

^{viii} RG13/493/p58.

^{ix} FreeBMD Birth Index.

^x RG11/4874/p13; RG12/4031/pp9-10.

^{xi} RG13/493/p58.

^{xii} FreeBMD Marriage Index.

^{xiii} RG12/4031/pp9-10.

^{xiv} RG13/3747/p6.

^{xv} Refer to FreeBMD printout on file.

^{xvi} RG12/4031/pp9-10.

^{xvii} RG13/4604/p6.

^{xviii} HO107/1254/7/p5.

^{xix} RG11/4874/p17.

^{xx} FreeBMD Marriage and Death Indexes.

^{xxi} FreeBMD Birth Index.

^{xxii} RG12/4031/pp9-10.