

# *This is A Few Forgotten Women Story*



*This story was written, in March 2023, as one of a series resulting from the 'A Few Forgotten Women Friday' collaborative research project, investigating the lives of women who appear in the 1901 census for St. Joseph's Inebriate Reformatory, Ashford, Middlesex and Farmfield Reformatory for Inebriate Women, Horley, Surrey.*

## **Mary Horsley née McLoughlin**

According to the 1901 census Mary was born about 1853 in Sligo, Ireland though her exact year of birth is uncertain. There is a baptism for a Maria McLoughlin on 15 April 1850 at Drumcliff, Sligo. Parents Michael McLoughlin and Brigida Conway. Perhaps this is our Mary.

She married Joseph Horsley, a blacksmith, in 1868 in Leeds. The 1871 census shows Mary and her husband Joseph living in Little London, Rawton, Wharfedale, Yorkshire.

Her only child, Mary Jane, was born in 1875 in Scarborough, Yorkshire. Mary Jane was baptized on 21<sup>st</sup> March 1875 at St Peter's Church, Scarborough with

John McLoughlin shown as her godfather. It's possible that John was Mary's brother.

In 1881, Mary is living with her husband and daughter at the home of her husband's brother James, and James' wife Betsy in Scalby, Yorkshire.

Mary can't be found in the 1891 census though her husband Joseph is lodging with Arthur Plummer and family in Upper Union Street, Hull and described as a Shoeing Smith. Their daughter Mary Jane is a servant living with Elizabeth Walker, a lodging housekeeper, at Esplanade Road, Scarborough.

The next we hear about Mary is through the many newspaper articles about her arrests and court appearances. She was charged with stealing £20 in 1894.

School or similar institution. — **Mary Horsley** (48), married woman, Longwestgate, was charged with stealing from a house in Armstrong's-yard, on June 28th, £20 in gold, the property of a man named Jesse Russell. Prosecutor, a blacksmith, had been working along with a man named **Horsley**, at Skipsea. On the night of the 27th of June he went home with **Horsley** and slept with him. He had two purses in his pockets, containing altogether £20 in gold. In the morning the money was missing. Prisoner, when arrested a day or two later, had £5 in the bosom of her dress. She had told a woman named Burgess, who lived in the house, that she had left £5 of the money at the Malt Shovel Inn, and had "felt" the remainder in the Castle Dykes. She said she had got the money when her husband knocked her downstairs. She also told the woman Burgess that she did not intend to steal it when she took it. When asked at the police-station to account for her possession of the £5, she stated that her husband had given it to her. She was worse for drink when arrested, and appeared to be suffering from the effects of it for some time afterwards.—Prisoner was committed to take her trial at the next Yorkshire Assizes.

STOCKTON

*Driffield Times*

*Image from the British Newspaper Library*

Jesse Russell did not appear in court, so as there was no evidence to offer, Mary was found not guilty. The article mentioned that Jesse Russell slept with Mary's husband. Was this just a matter of sharing a bed in a lodging house as quite often happened? The prison register at this time shows a previous conviction as well as her being fined on several occasions.

At a later court appearance in October 1899 Mary was represented by a solicitor who requested that her husband and brother undertake to take charge of her rather than she be sent to an Inebriates home. The brother mentioned could be John McLoughlin, godfather to Mary Jane. Unfortunately, Mary didn't change her ways and in November 1900 she was committed to an Inebriates Home in Ashford for three years by the Scarborough magistrates. Her stay at the home doesn't seem to have helped Mary as in August 1902 she is back in court in Scarborough for having used obscene language. It is sad to find that despite her husband's apparent wish to support her she could not change her ways.

There is no further record of Mary other than a death registered for a Mary Horsley in Scarborough in 1919.

Joseph, Mary's husband, lived separately from his wife for the rest of his life. In 1901 he is living with his daughter and her husband Hudson Daniel at Cross Street, Scarborough. He described himself as married in 1911 and living at the Model Lodging House, William Street, Scarborough. His first name is mistakenly given as George in this census. In 1921 Joseph is living at Chapman Yard, Globe Street, Scarborough, an unemployed blacksmith and is now a widower. Joseph died in 1925 in Scarborough.

Mary's daughter Mary Jane married and had a son Joseph in 1902 and who was baptized at St Peter, Scarborough. It's interesting that young Joseph's godfather was John McLoughlin.

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#### Sources

Marriage Leeds 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr 1868

Birth, Mary Jane Horsley 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr 1875 Scarborough MMN McLoughlin

Death, Mary Horsley, 4<sup>th</sup> Qtr, 1919, Scarborough, Age 71

Death, Joseph Horsley, 3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr 1925, Scarborough, Age 84

#### Census

1871 Little London, RG10 4300 Folio 13

1881 Oak Lane, Scalby, RG11 4806 Folio 73

1891 Upper Union Street, Hull, RG12 3940 Folio 145

1891 Esplanade Road, Scarborough, RG12 3967 Folio 26

1901 St Josephs Inebriates Reformatory, Ashford, RG13 1171 Folio 12-13

1901 Cross Street, Scarborough, RG 13 4531 Folio 95

1911 Model Lodging House, Scarborough, RG 14 28926 Schedule 241

1921 Chapman Yard, Scarborough, RG 15 23900 Schedule 263

Driffield Times 1894

York Herald 1894

York Herald 1899

Leeds Mercury 1899

Sheffield Daily Telegraph 1899

Nottingham Evening Post 1900

Leeds Mercury 1902