

This is a Story from 'A Few Forgotten Women'



This story was written, in January 2023, as one of a series resulting from the 'A Few Forgotten Women Friday' collaborative research project, investigating the lives of girls from Leeds, Girls' Industrial School, Yorkshire.

Emily Barrett

Emily is recorded in the admissions' book for the Leeds' Industrial School as Emmily Barrett de Bailey and she has been indexed in this way by Ancestry. Looking at other entries, it becomes clear that this form of words was used in the ledger for illegitimate children and meant that her father was a Barrett and her mother a Bailey.

Unfortunately, I haven't been able to find much about Emmily. There are no results for Emmily (or Emily) Barrett de Bailey in the databases of Ancestry, FindMyPast or FamilySearch; aside from the entry in the Industrial School's Commitment Book. Emmily does not appear in the 1871 census return for the ragged school, and her entry in the Commitment Book gives very little information about her. I suspect that her name was actually Emily Barrett or Emily Bailey, but this is just a theory, I have no evidence to prove that. The Ancestry record just notes her name, place of birth (Rigton), age (13, which

gives an approximate year of birth of 1854/55), and date of admission (22nd December 1868).

Google Maps and the FamilySearch Jurisdiction Map tool don't recognise 'Rigton' but do show North Rigton and East Rigton. However, the browsing map on <https://www.oldmapsonline.org/> shows 'Rigton' next to East Rigton. Rigton/East Rigton fell within the parish of Bardsey. North Rigton was in the parish of Kirkby Overblow. It is more likely that Emily came from the parish of Bardsey, as East Rigton is only three and a half miles from Shadwell, whereas North Rigton (in Kirkby Overblow) is nine and a half miles away, although either of these places could have been her birthplace.

Exploring the parish baptism registers for All Hallows church in Bardsey, and the church (unnamed) of Kirkby Overblow, there were no entries for Barrett or Bailey within +/-2 years of 1856.

Searching the GRO's online index of births, there were no entries for Emmily/Emily Barrett or Bailey (using Phonetically Similar Variations) within +/-1year of 1855, in the districts of Tadcaster or Knaresborough (the civil registration districts of the parish of Bardsey and Kirkby Overblow respectively). Checking neighbouring districts, I discovered one result for an Emily Barrett, whose birth was registered in the fourth quarter of 1855, in the district of Otley (Volume: 9a; Page: 127). Her mother's maiden name is recorded as Hartley, not Bailey as I would have expected. I'm not sure if this is our Emmily Barrett de Bailey, but she seems the likeliest candidate, so I ordered a pdf copy of the entry in the register.

This Emily Barrett was born on 21st October 1855, in Guiseley, to William and Hope Barrett (née Hartley). William is noted as a Journeyman Clothier. Guiseley is nine miles from North Rigton and fourteen and a half miles from East Rigton. Could this Emily Barrett be our Emmily Barrett or Bailey? It's difficult to say without further evidence.

Following this Barrett family, I found various records concerning them throughout the mid-late 1800s. Emily Barrett, daughter of William (a Draper) and Hope Barrett of Guiseley, was baptised on 2nd December 1855 at St Oswald's church, Guiseley.

In the 1861 Census, the family were living in Town Street, Guiseley. Hope is listed as Head of the Household, and William is not at home. He may be away for work or visiting family. Hope is not recorded as widowed, so we can presume William hasn't died. With such a common name, it has been difficult to narrow down William's whereabouts in 1861. There are several William Barretts from the area, about the same age, so it needs investigating further.

By the 1871 census however, Hope is recorded as a widow, so William passed away some time before 1871. Emily was living alone in the 1881 census, still in Guiseley, unmarried and working as a Woollen Weaver.

According to an entry on [FindAGrave](#), Emily Barrett appeared to have died a spinster, and was buried in the same church in which she was baptised, St Oswald's, Guiseley. Her date of death is recorded in the monumental inscription as 19th March 1909.

I've traced William and Hope back to the 1841 census, so I estimated they were married before then and confirmed that they married in 1838.

In all these records there is no hint to the name Bailey, nor is there any reference to the place of Rigton. I believe there is a strong possibility that this Emily is our Emmily Barrett or Bailey, but there was some mistake (deliberate or not) in the recording of her information in the Register of Commitments at the Industrial School. Further investigation is required to find evidence that supports or disproves this theory. According to West Yorkshire Archives online catalogue, the only records within the collection for Shadwell Children's Centre, for the timeframe of when Emily was in the school, are the Registers of Commitments (viewed already on Ancestry.co.uk).

I would suggest that we continue the research into William and Hope Barrett to see if we can find a connection to Rigton or the name Bailey at all. We could explore parish registers for their baptisms, electoral registers/poll books, and perhaps some apprenticeship/freemen records and local directories for William's occupation as Draper/Clothier.

Kelly Cornwell February 2023

Sources

West Yorkshire Reformatory School Records 1856-1922, originals at West Yorkshire Archives Service WRT/1/72-77, 81-84 accessible on www.ancestry.co.uk (Reference: LC/SS2/1/1)

Ancestry www.ancestry.co.uk/

Google Maps www.google.com/maps

FamilySearch Jurisdiction Map www.familysearch.org/mapp/

Old Maps Online www.oldmapsonline.org/

FindAGrave.com www.findagrave.com/

West Yorkshire Joint Services www.wyjs.org.uk/archive-service/

England and Wales Civil Birth Register Index; accessible on GRO.gov.uk, <https://www.gro.gov.uk>; original held at General Register Office, Southport; Reference: *Emily Barrett; 1855; 4Q; Otley; Vol: 9a; Page: 127.*

Parish Baptism Register of St Oswald, Guiseley; accessible on Ancestry, West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1910, <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/2252/>; original held at West Yorkshire Archive Service; Reference: *BDP29/2/3*

England and Wales 1861 Census Returns; accessible on Ancestry, England and Wales 1861 Census, <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/8767/>; original held at The National Archives, Kew, London; Reference: Class: *RG 9*; Piece: *3216*; Folio: *28*; Pages: *49 and 50*

England and Wales 1871 Census Returns; accessible on Ancestry, England and Wales 1871 Census, <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/7619/>; original held at The National Archives, Kew, London; Reference: Class: *RG10*; Piece: *4306*; Folio: *101*; Page: *11*

England and Wales 1881 Census Returns; accessible on Ancestry, England and Wales 1881 Census, <https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/7572/>; original held at The National Archives, Kew, London; Reference: Class: *RG11*; Piece: *4340*; Folio: *98*; Page: *60*

Parish Marriage Register of St Oswald, Guiseley; accessible on Ancestry, West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1813-1935,

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/2253/>; original held at West Yorkshire

Archive Service; Reference: *WDP2*

Emily Barratt/Bailey Further Thoughts

I know that she's called Emily as the Clerk appears not to know how to spell Emily as the previous girl (another Emily) is also spelt Emmily.

I wonder if 'Rigton' was also a mis-spelling? There is an area of Sheffield called Beighton, which a young, frightened girl might not have pronounced clearly, or the Clerk might not have been familiar with the Sheffield dialect, being based in Leeds or the Clerk might have spelt it phonetically.

In Sheffield, an Emily Barratt appears on the 1871 census¹ with her parents (Thomas, 43 scissor maker b Corber/Curber Derbyshire and Emma, 40, b Sheffield) as a 16-year-old, who was not employed. Her brother, Thomas 10, is a scholar and both children were born in Sheffield. They were living in Marsden Court, Brocco Street in Sheffield.

Thomas Barratt married Emma Knowles in the June quarter 1854 in Sheffield² and Emily Barratt was born on the 5 August 1854 and baptised on the 25th December 1854 at Sheffield Cathedral, the daughter of Thomas Barratt, scissor smith and Emma his wife who were living in Edward Street³. The birth was registered in the September quarter of 1854, mother's maiden name was Knowles⁴.

However, in the 1861 census⁵, I can only find Thomas senior (back with his parents in Corber/Curber). No sign of Emma or Emily. I am wondering if they were in an Institution as Thomas junior was born in 1860/1 as he's 10 in the following census 1871. The Leeds Industrial School might have taken children from the Workhouses in the Sheffield area and might explain where she was in the 1860's when her father had gone back to his parents in Derbyshire. The Kelham Street Workhouse was possibly where her mother was, whereas Brightside Workhouse was used to house the Children. Sheffield is an hour train ride from Leeds, so it is possible that the Sheffield Poor Law Union used the Leeds industrial school for the girls, as there was only a boy's school at the Sheffield workhouse. The family were reunited by 1871, so whatever issue there was, seems to have been resolved.

This Emily seems to then disappear. Possibly she was ill (as she was not shown as being employed in the 1871 Census) and was not living with her parents in the 1881 census. Maybe she married? There's a marriage between an Emily Barrett and a James Male in February 1872⁶ (Sheffield Archives PR-62-2-10) with Thomas Barratt as the Bride's father. This Emily is shown as a widow and a washerwoman in the 1881 Sheffield Census⁷ living with her 2 children, (Albert 8 and Thomas 4) next door to her parents in Powell Street.

Emily Male gets married in September 1881 at Holy Trinity, Wicker to Arthur Hobson, 29 a forger, who is a widower, with 2 children. Her father, Thomas has died since the 1881 census was taken in the spring. In the 1891 census⁹, Emily is still living with her husband and his 2 children (Hobson), her 2 children (Male) and 4 of their young children in a house in Woodbine Road in Brightside Bierlow. Emily appears on both the 1901 and the 1911 census but her death is

recorded in 1913 at the age of 59 years, the year following her husband's death (FreeBMD Dec 1913 Sheffield 9c 717).

I found no link to the name Bailey and wondered if this was an administrative error (just like her name and possible address). The only link to the name Bailey could be an entry in the 1881 Sheffield¹⁰ census, where Harry Bailey (27, pen and pocket blade maker, b Sheffield) is married and living with his wife, Emily (27 b Sheffield) and Children Thomas 6, Charles 2, and Walter 8 months. However, I have been unable to find any marriage record for a Barratt/Bailey marriage and Emily was already married to James Male by this time.

In the 1891 Sheffield¹¹ census Harry Bailey is living with Emily but is unmarried, as is she! Their children include Thomas 16, Emily 14, Charles 12, John 6, and Ellen 3. They are living at Shales Moor in Sheffield. This could just be a mistake on the part of the enumerator.

The final reference to an Emily Bailey is when she appears before Sheffield Box Court¹² at the Sheffield Bro Sessions in January 1889 and pleads guilty to stealing a toy cart and ostrich on 18 December 1888. This is 'entered into record to come up for judgement if called upon' and she appears to have been discharged the same day. She is described as 34 years, 5'2" with black hair, able to read and write, no previous convictions, a Wesleyan and living in Sheffield. This toy might have been a Christmas present for one of her children, but it might have been a miserable Christmas if she was imprisoned over the festive period. But by the court date she would have served 21 days in custody, so this may explain why she was 'discharged' on the same day.

These two census entries, and the court record could relate to another Emily, as an Emily Taylor is recorded as marrying a Harry Bailey in Wicker, Yorkshire in 1873, (Family Search Tree) about a mile from their address in the 1891 census. As Emily Barratt/Male/Hobson was also living in Wicker, I did wonder if the Barratt-Bailey families knew each other? I checked the earlier census records and they were only living a 10-minute walk away from each other on the 1871 census.

This Emily would fit with the Emily Barratt/Bailey in the Leeds Industrial School register as she had possibly been taken in by the Bailey family around the time that her brother was born in 1860/1, although this is only supposition.

Janice Brinley Codd

Resources

1 England and Wales Census Returns accessible on Ancestry.com. 1871 England Census. Original held at The National Archives, Kew, London; Reference: 1871 England Census Class: RG10; Piece: 4682; Folio: 80; Page: 11 GSU roll: 542986

2 <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=BMD/M/1854/2/AL/001201/006>

3 <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBPRS/B/221066747/1>

4 <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=BMD/B/1854/3/AH/00202/011>

5 England and Wales Census Returns accessible on Ancestry.com. 1861 England Census. Original held at The National Archives, Kew, London; Reference: 1861 England Census Class: RG9; Piece: 2538; Folio: 138; Page: 6, GSU roll:847231

6 <https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903?1:1:66GP-XPWN:11> August 2022)

7 England and Wales Census Returns accessible on Ancestry.com. 1881 England Census.
Original held at The National Archives, Kew, London; Reference: 1881 England Census Class:
RG11; Piece: 4621; Folio: 93; Page: 11, GSU roll: 1342116

8

<https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBPRS/YORKSHIRE?SHEFFIELD?MAR?004260/2>

9 England and Wales Census Returns accessible on Ancestry.com. 1891 England Census.
Original held at The National Archives, Kew, London; Reference: 1891 England Census Class:
RG12; Piece: 3835; Folio: 135; Page: 4, GSU roll: 1342116

10 England and Wales Census Returns accessible on Ancestry.com. 1881 England Census.
Original held at The National Archives, Kew, London; Reference: 1881 England Census Class:
RG11; Piece: 4621; Folio: 93; Page: 11,

11 <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=GBC/1981/0026372277>

12 <https://www.findmypast.co.uk/transcript?id=YORKS/COURTS/0177984>