

This is A Few Forgotten Women Story



In January 2023, the 'A Few Forgotten Women Friday' collaborative research project investigated the lives of girls from Leeds, Girls' Industrial School, Yorkshire. We were able to create biographies for some of the girls; in other instances there was little information or only possible sightings of the girls in other records. We committed to recording every girl and this document gives the details we have for those for whom we were unable to create a fuller story. The girls were all researched by different volunteers and we have retained the different styles of reporting below. Some of the reports have been added to as new details have come to light. Please do get in touch if you have additional information. The stories are accurate to the best of our ability; we will willingly correct any errors that may be identified.

Sarah Ann Atkinson – researched by Janet Few

Please be aware that this story contains an account of child sexual abuse.

Sarah Ann Atkinson was admitted to Leeds Industrial School at the age of eleven, on 1 September 1863. Her birthplace was given as Leeds. Some family details are given in the admissions' register. Her parents were William and Mary Her father was a labourer who had deserted the family 'six years since'.

The family address was Union Street, Leeds. 'Mother keeps a brothel, many young boys go to it. She is a thief m.... (illegible word possibly much) used by the mother for prostitution'.

Sarah's crime was stealing clothes from a washing line, for which she was committed to the Industrial School for four years. The comment in the admissions' register regarding her previous character gives an insight into the appalling abuse young Sarah had suffered. 'Sent out to beg by the mother. Frequents the company of young thieves and was prostituted by an old soldier with the sanction of the mother'.

In 1861, the only Sarah Atkinson, with a mother Mary is living at 43 Harper Street, Leeds. There are three households sharing this property, Sarah's is headed by twenty-three year old John Fourness a blacksmith's labourer. Sarah's mother is described as being a charwoman, married and John's 'lodger'. Sarah's two younger sisters, Mary Ann, aged eight and Harriet Etta, aged five, make up the household. Nine-year-old Sarah is said to have been born in York; Sarah and Mary were scholars. The indexes of the General Registrar show that Mary's maiden name was Metcalf(e) and William Atkinson and Mary Metcalf married in York registration district in the June quarter of 1852, the same quarter in which Sarah's birth was registered (without the middle name Ann).

Sarah was baptised in Raskelf, Yorkshire on 19 September 1852; William was a labourer of Raskelfe Green. When Harriet (no etta) was christened in 1856 the family was living on Peashomle Green, York. In 1871, Sarah Atkinson, a domestic servant, can be found in Leeds Workhouse. Also in the workhouse is

Harriet Atkinson, aged fourteen, birthplace unknown, described as an imbecile. It is possible that this was Sarah's sister but with a common surname it is impossible to be sure.

Strangely, nothing about Sarah's mother, or Sarah herself, can be found in the newspapers. Nothing else can be positively identified about this family. There are numerous possible marriages for Sarah.

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 Birth, marriage and death indexes of the General Registrar.

1861 census for 43 Harper Street, Leeds, Yorkshire RG9 3377 folio 39.

1871 census for Leeds Workhouse RG10 4558 folio 105

The baptism register of Raskelf, Yorkshire accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

The baptism register of St. Saviour's, York, Yorkshire accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk

Mary Bass - researched by Emma Potter

The only record of Mary Bass, age 13 from Leeds is in the Ragged School entry in the 1871 census. Looking for Mary's birth on the GRO for 1858 + or - 2 years, there are 22 entries for Mary Bass including those with 2 Christian names.

None however come from Leeds.

Looking for Mary in Leeds in 1861. There is a possibility for a Mary F Bass, age 3, supposedly born in Leeds, who is the niece of 28 year old Robert F Bass who was a journeyman bread and biscuit maker from Ireland. His wife was Emily, 26, from Bury St. Edmunds. The couple had a daughter, 1 year old Emily E. who had been born in Leeds, there was also Robert's sister, Elizabeth 14.

Robert Bass and Emily Bass had married in Leeds in Dec. ¼ 1857. Robert and Emily, several children and Robert's sister, by 1871, had returned to Emily's birthplace of Bury St. Edmunds, which could account for niece Mary being in the Ragged School if they did not want to take her with them. This may indicate that Mary's parents were still in the Leeds area.

Not knowing when Mary left the school there is a possibility that she was working as a servant for a master cotton spinner in Manningham, Yorkshire. She is recorded as Mary F.J. Bass 23, from Leeds.

Mary's life, because of the limited information in the 1871 census, is actually mostly conjecture and to fully research her life would need to do a deal of family reconstitution using all the Marys in the GRO. There is also the possibility that she was never registered as registration was not compulsory until 1874. If she is the Mary F the family would need to be looked at carefully as Robert's father was a soldier and the family probably moved about.

Sources: Ancestry and Find My Past censuses
West Yorkshire registers on Ancestry

Elizabeth Bell – researched by Debbie Cameron

Elizabeth was born c.1858 in Leeds. There is a detailed description of her in the admissions' register for the Industrial School. She had light brown hair, blue eyes, a dark complexion and a slender figure. Comments about her teeth are illegible but looks like some are "apart" (indicating missing teeth?). Her parents' names are given as William and Bridgett. The address appears to be Holmes yard off York Street. William's occupation is given as boot and shoe maker.

The section "Other friends and relations" is almost impossible read but it does look like there are names and addresses of three aunts, one of whom shares Elizabeth's mother's first name – Bridgett. At least one is married "Mrs ?Pachard. Another aunt is named as Ann Groves. I guessed that the three names were all William's married sisters, which is confirmed by a marriage in Leeds. His sister Ann married Joseph Groves in 1843. This couple lived in Black Hills which I think this may be connected to the mining areas of Leeds and since Elizabeth's crime is "Gathering coal" this may confirm that the extended family lived in this area..

There is a lot of information about the officer who Elizabeth was committed by. Darnton Lupton was very well known and active dignitary in the East Leeds area. The offence was "stealing coal with other children". Under the heading "Character" is a damning indictment of the system, "For some time a bad girl, sent out to gather coal". A 12 year old child who was "sent out" no doubt by her parents to gather coal, possibly not for profit, but for their own use to keep their children warm; in other words, a child obeying her parents NOT a "bad

girl"! Her education is noted to have been one week at St James' School. She could not read, write or "cipher. For her misdemeanour she was committed to the Ragged School where she is found on the 1871 census.

The words "Time up Sept 23rd 1874" are scrawled across the original entry, in blue crayon. Proof that she did indeed remain at the Ragged School for four years. The word "Girl" is also scrawled across the page in blue crayon. There is no more information – on the boys' records there is far more Perhaps because they are seen as being more capable of earning a living and supporting a family in later years.

Sources:

1861 census. She is aged two and her parents have three other children.

William is a cordwainer (this fits with his occupation described as boot and shoe maker on the register).

1871 census. Ragged school. This merely confirms her age and place of birth. Her parents, William and Bridgett Bell are living alone at Holmes Yard.

Luisa Bruane/Louisa Brown – researched by Clare Hext

Luisa Bruane was admitted to the Industrial School on 15th July 1867, aged 8, she was born in Leeds. there are no other details at all on the admission form.¹

There is a Louisa Brown listed on the 1871 Ragged School census return² of the correct age and details and the fact that there is a line struck through the admission form with the word Girl could suggest that she could be the same

person. In the 1861 census return for the Leeds Workhouse there is a mother and daughter, a Mary A Brown, aged 20 an unmarried card spacer and her daughter, 8 months old Louisa.³

There is a Louisa Brown registered in the December quarter of 1867 in Leeds, with no mother's maiden name, which suggests an illegitimate birth.⁴

Louisa was possibly buried at Beckett Street Non-Conformist Cemetery, there is an entry for Louisa Brown no abode listed, buried 1st July 1871 aged 12 years.⁵

¹ 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

² 1871 census: Girls' Ragged School, Windsor Street, Leeds, Yorkshire RG10 4555 folios 114 and 155

³ 1861 Census: Leeds District Workhouse, RG 9;3386; Folio: 88; Page: 3;

⁴ England, General Register Office, Birth Indexes, 1867 D Quarter, Leeds, Vol 09B, Page 369

⁵ *Leeds, England, Beckett Street Cemetery, 1845-1987*. Original data: Beckett Street Cemetery Records. Digitized registers. West Yorkshire Archive Service, Leeds, England, accessible on www.ancestry.co.uk

Sarah Ann Dixon or Dickson – researched by Joanne Ashworth

Sarah Ann Dixon was born 6th October 1858 and was baptised 23rd April 1860 at St. Peter's Church, Leeds.ⁱ Her birth was registered in the 4th Quarter 1858, Leeds District.ⁱⁱ Sarah Ann's parents were William and Ellen Dixon and at the time of the baptism they were living at Anglesea Street, Leeds and William's profession is that of cloth dresser.

Three years later in 1861 the census shows that Sarah Ann is aged 3 and is living with her father William, mother Ellen and 4 siblings at 1 Anglesea Street, Leeds. William is aged 32 and is a cloth dresser, Ellen his wife is 30, Elizabeth daughter is aged 13, Joseph son is aged 11, Harriett daughter aged 9, William son aged 6, Sarah A aged 3 and George son aged 5 months.ⁱⁱⁱ

Between 1861 and 1871 the family moved to Linsley Court, Leeds as there is a record of another sibling born – Louisa Dixon born 10 October 1864 at Linsley Court.^{iv} In 1866 Sarah Ann's brother Joseph Dixon dies aged 16, also of Linsley Court, and is buried 30 April 1866 at Beckett Street Cemetery.^v

At the age of 9 Sarah Ann Dixon was committed to the Edgar Street Reformatory School. The date she was committed was 16th November 1867.^{vi} There are no other details regarding the reason for Sarah Ann's committal however in 1871 she was attending the Ragged School on Windsor Street, Leeds.^{vii} She has actually been listed twice on the 1871 census. As well as at the Ragged School she has been listed with her family at 2 Hull Street, Leeds.^{viii} Hull Street is just a few streets away from Windsor Street^{ix} so it is possible that Sarah Ann attended as a day scholar. She was aged 12 in 1871.

Sarah Ann married John Walker on the 24th December 1879 at St Stephen's Church, Burmantofts, Leeds.^x At the time of her marriage to John she was living at 5 Nippett Street and John Walker was living at 3 Nippett Street. Just two years later on the 1881 census they were living at 24 Nippett Terrace and their son John W. Walker is aged 6 months.^{xi}

John and Sarah Ann go on to have a further 4 children, all daughters, Florry in 1882, Sarah in 1885, Clara in 1887 and Ethel in 1889. In 1891 the family are still living at 24 Nippet Terrace. All 5 children are still alive and living with them.^{xii}

Sarah Ann Walker wife of John Walker was buried at Beckett Street Cemetery, Leeds on the 2 February 1893^{xiii} and there is a death registered 1st Quarter 1893 for Leeds of a Sarah Ann Walker aged 34.^{xiv}

- i. Ancestry: West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1910
- ii. Ancestry: England and Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915
- iii. 1861 Census: RG 09 3385 folio 37 page 16
- iv. Ancestry: West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1910
- v. Ancestry: Leeds, England, Beckett Street Cemetery 1845 - 1987
- vi. 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
- vii. 1871 Census for the Girls' Ragged School, Windsor Street, Leeds, Yorkshire RG10 4555 folios 114 and 155
- viii. 1871 Census: RG10 4556 folio 159 page 22
- ix. <https://secretlibraryleeds.net/2021/07/23/the-lost-streets-project-goes-live/>
- x. Ancestry: West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1813-1935
- xi. 1881 Census: RG11 4521 folio 171 page 4
- xii. Find My Past: 1891 Census, RG12 3693 folio 131 page 3
- xiii. Ancestry: UK and Ireland, Find A Grave™ Index, 1300s - Current
- xiv. Ancestry: England and Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837 – 1915

Mary Ellen Flannery – researched by Debbie Cameron

Mary Ellen Flannery was born in 1864 in Leeds, her mother's maiden name was Hurick. Mary's death is registered as Mary Helen Flannery. However I very sadly found her death on 29 May 1879 in the burial records of the Beckett Street Cemetery. It was in unconsecrated ground. She was noted to be 16. Her address is given as the Ragged School Windsor street, where she had been in 1871.

May or Mary Grimes – researched by Jan Fillinger

Mary (A.K.A. May) was born in 1858, her mother was Elizabeth Grimes, who works as a Char Woman , her father is not named the record just states he is dead.

On 13 January 1870 May appeared before Leeds Magistrate Court charged with being destitute and homeless after being found living in a cellar in Madras Street, Leeds. Madras Street was situated in the Marsh Lane area of Leeds, just south of the Marsh Lane Railway Goods Station and Sheds. The local area in those days was known as Bank. Madras Street ran parallel with Railway Street, Grantham Street, (then Madras Street) and Bombay Street. This area was heavily populated by Irish families, mainly employed in the weaving industry. Mary is described as having dark Brown hair, brown eyes, she has had smallpox, very bad in the face, well built in stature. The report states that 'this poor girl has been much marched about'.

The admission reports states that Mary attended the Lady Beck Ragged School and Workhouse school, she reads and writes a little and can cipher 2 simple rules. The only family members mentioned are an Aunt Mrs Boyle and an uncle Mr Boyle, who works as a Bricklayer. She was sentenced to 5 years in the Industrial School.

1871 Census shows May listed as Mary, her place of birth is not known. She attended the Girls Ragged School, in the North East Section of Leeds.

There is very limited information on Mary, she was released 13 January 1875, no further checks were followed up or none recorded. With the name Mary Grimes being very common in the area it is difficult to find the correct person without finding the relevant certificates.

Sarah Ann Halliwell – researched by Janet Johnson

Sarah Ann is No 132 in the register of commitments at 'Shadwell Children's Centre. She was admitted to that establishment on 31 July, 1867, at the age of 10. The register states that she was born in Leeds.

There is no further information given on the page of her entry. All other headings are blank. The word 'Girl' has been written in large writing diagonally across the page. In the year of her admission, there was a reorganisation and the girls were moved to the Girls Ragged School in Windsor Street, off Springfield Terrace in Leeds.

Indeed, she is listed as one of the occupants at the Ragged School in the 1871 Census, aged 14 and again, stating born in Leeds. There she resides with 47 other girls aged between 7 and 15. A Matron, a Teacher and an Assistant Matron are also occupants.

This is where Sarah Ann Halliwell's story has to end for now as I have been unable to confirm any further facts about her.

Sources:

Ancestry: Register of commitments 1862-1879 West Yorkshire, England,
Reformatory School records 1856-1914

Census: 1871. RG10/4555

Childrens' Homes: www.childrenshomes.org.uk

Other sources researched:

Free BMD

GRO indexes

Ancestry – wider searches, eg, censuses for other years, passenger lists

Find My Past – wider searches – including newspapers

British Newspaper Archive – Gale - on-line through Leeds City libraries

Clara Heald/Clara Hill – researched by Donna Mills

Clara Heald was born in 1858, in Middleton, Hunslet, Yorkshire West Riding. Her parents were Ralph and Mary Heald née Clark. In 1861 she was living in

Hunslet with Ralph Heald 28 years old, born 1833 Hunslet Yorkshire Middleton, a coalminer and 'Margaret' 29 years old born 1832 Yorkshire Holbeck, later records suggest that this was Clara's mother, Mary. Clara had two sisters, Ann born 1854 and Emily 1860, Hunslet, Yorkshire Middleton. Another sister, Emma, was born in 1864.

Clara's father, Ralph, was buried on the 29 January 1865 aged 32, in Middleton; it may be why Clara was admitted to the Industrial School for five years, as Clara Hill, on 15 May 1867. In 1871, Clara was in the Ragged School in Windsor Street but was also enumerated with her mother and sisters Ann and Emma in Leeds, Emily having died in 1862. Her mother, now correctly named as Mary, was a Flax spinner and Clara was a scholar.

According to the *Leeds Times*, in January 1873, Clara Heald 'late of the Leeds Industrial School' was sentenced to one month in prison, followed by three years in a reformatory for stealing £2 10 shillings from her employer Mr G Spencer of Savile Park.

In 1878 at 20 years old, Clara married John Morris aged 21 years, an engine fitter, he was born 1857, he was living at Mill street Yorkshire and Clara was living at East Street Yorkshire. John was born in Grantham, Lincolnshire; Clara signed the marriage certificate.

By 1881, Clara had two children Ralph 2 years and Sarah 7 months. Clara went on to have more children: Kate, Ann, Emma and Evelina and William. In 1891 and in 1901, the family were living in two rooms in Hunslet.

In 1911 Clara is living with two of her children at 6 Bewerley Street Dewsbury Road Leeds Yorks. She is said to be married but there is no sign of John. This census also shows that she had had ten children, four of whom had died. By 1921, John was back with Clara. Clara died at 75 years old in 1933.

Anne Herd – researched by Helen Brookes

Ann's entry in the admissions' register tells us that she was admitted on 15 June 1870, for a term of seven years for the offences of begging, stealing and being unmanageable; she was just eight years old. Her previous character was described as 'for some two or three years begging, stealing, wandering, unmanageable'. She had been born in Pendwich, Leeds. Her stepfather Joseph was a warehouseman and her mother was named Harriet and her address was 4 Cromwell Place, Cromwell Street. She was described as being very little for her age with deformed legs.

It has been something of a challenge finding further information about Ann(ie). She was born Ann Marsh and her birth is registered in the 2nd Qtr 1861, Leeds. She was the illegitimate daughter of Harriett Marsh. In 1861, she and her mother are living as lodgers at Woodhouse Cliff, Leeds. Her mother Harriet is described as unmarried, born 1833, a domestic servant, birthplace Leeds. Harriet Marsh married Joseph Hird on 9th February 1864. Joseph was a widower, and his occupation was given as a warehouse man. Joseph's first wife Elizabeth died at the early age of 30 leaving him to care for their three young children, John Richard born 1857, Squire born 1860 and Martha 1861.

In 1871 Annie Herd was a scholar in the Windsor Road Ragged School. By 1881, Annie was living at Old Field Lane, Ingleton, Yorkshire with George Holden, a cattle dealer and his wife Mary as a domestic servant. She has not been positively identified beyond this.

Her mother and siblings have been traced further. The 1871 census shows the now extended family living at 49 Penn Street, Leeds. Harriet and Joseph having had 3 children, Emma, Elizabeth and Joe, between their marriage and the census. Joseph is still a warehouse man. Harriet place of birth this time is shown as Denton. The 1881 census finds the family living at 17 Arthur Street, Leeds. There are two more children in the household, Milley born in 1873 who sadly died in 1883 and Arthur born in 1874. Joseph is shown again as a warehouse man. In 1891 it's possible that Joseph and Harriet are living in different households. A Joseph Hird of the correct age and a warehouse man and married, is a boarder at Clifton Street, Leeds. The head of the household is Martha Stonehouse, widow. There is a Harriet Hird, age 58, born Denton, living at Albert Grove, Leeds. She's the head of the household, married and described as a certified nurse. There are four boarders living at the same property. There are possible deaths for Joseph in 1894 and Harriet in 1907.

Census entries

1861 - Woodhouse Cliff, Leeds RG 09, Piece 3389, Folio 24, Page 4.

1871 – Windsor Street Girls Ragged School, Leeds RG10, Piece 4555, Folio 115, Page 6.

1871- 49 Penn street, Leeds RG10, Piece No 4556, Folio 127, Page 40.

1881 – Old Field Lane, Ingleton, Yorkshire RG 11, Piece 4297, Folio 83, Page 22

1881 - 17 Arthur Street, Leeds RG11, Piece no. 4522, Folio 21, Page 8.

1891 – Clifton Street, Leeds RG12, Piece no. 3695, Folio 139, Page 4.

1891 – Albert Grove, Leeds RG12, Piece no 3697, Folio 128, Page 26.

Mary Ann and Catherine Martin – researched by Linda Brignall

I have been unable to trace Mary Ann or Catharine in the 1861 census or in birth records before their entry to the Industrial School.

The two sisters and a brother, Peter, were committed to Leeds Industrial School (later to become Shadwell Reformatory) on 4th August 1868, when Mary Ann was 9, Catherine 13 and Peter 11. Their offences were Wandering, Vagrancy, sleeping out and begging.

Mary Ann was the youngest of the three and committed for 5 years to be discharged on 4th August 1873. She is, however, listed on the scholars' register at 'The Girls Ragged School' 79 Windsor Road in 1871.

Catharine was employed begging and 'going to Ladies' houses to clean doorsteps' before her committal. Her previous character is quoted as having been often in the company of bad girls and low lodging houses, for years neglected, and sent out to beg by their father, living in a wretched home without furniture. She was to serve 2 years and her discharge date was stated as 4th August 1870.

Their father Thomas Martin was a labourer at Lawson's Foundry Mabgate and said to reside in Middle Fold Mabgate, although a search of the address in the 1861 and 1871 censuses does not show him. He is in the 1881 census living at 37 Rider Street with Peter and another son named Thomas aged 16 and

employed as a Puddler Iron. He was described in Peter's school record as a wretched drunkard and often in jail. Their mother is listed as deceased.

This could explain their behaviour, as they all appear to have been neglected and left with no other means of surviving.

I have found more information on Peter and Thomas. They do not fit our criteria but it seems relevant to provide for the family. Was this early discrimination? Neither Mary or Catharine had any descriptions or comments good or bad during their time in the industrial school and nothing is documented about their future in the log book. It is as if they were ignored.

Peter was employed before committal begging and mugging, and was at the school for 3 years. His record whilst there is far more informative. He is described as having dark brown hair, blue eyes and well built with a lisp, and it is written that he is a boy much neglected by his father. He is marked each year as being of good conduct. When his time was up he obtained a board Apprenticeship to a Boot maker, Mr Spaight, in Shipley. In the 1881 census at the age of 24 he is listed as a Shoemaker and on April 13th 1892 aged 32 his burial takes place at Becket Street Cemetery, Leeds. It is a Non-Conformist burial in the unconsecrated portion of the Cemetery.

Thomas was born in 1865 and in the 1881 Census was working as an Iron Puddler. Working in Iron manufacturing, converting pig iron to wrought iron. They usually worked as a two men shift to turn out about 1.5 tons in a 12 hour shift. The strenuous labour, heat and fumes usually resulted in a short life expectancy, with most dying in their thirties.

May McCue / Mary McKue – researched by Vikki Taylor

May McCue was admitted to the reform school on January 18th 1870 age 7 years old, however, 15 months later she is listed on the 1871 census as Mary McKue still aged 7 years old and born in Leeds.

This made it difficult to locate her exact birth records; there was no May McCue born in the time period of 1860 – 1864, but there was a Mary McCue born in 1862 in Halifax, which would fit in with the timeline but could not be verified as being her.

As a child she was well built with a dark complexion, brown hair and brown eyes, it would appear she had previously had smallpox as she had scars left over from the disease.

She had not attended school and could not read or write.

The offence that led her to be tried before the magistrate was begging, and he sentenced her to 9 years in a reform school, until her time up on the 18th of January 1879.

May/Mary was living at Mill Yard, Lower Temple Street, Leeds with her Father John – a cloth dresser and Mother Sarah – who sold stones. She had a sister and a brother, but their names were not registered.

She was described by the Magistrate, William Bruce, Esq, as “in a filthy wretched state”. He advised that her father and mother were often in prison and her sister is now in prison. Her brother was in another reform school – Market Weighton Reform School in Wakefield. This, according to the Magistrate, was “a most wretched and criminal family.”

Unfortunately, this is as far as we can get with May/Mary given that her name is different on both documents and her age is the same. The surname McCue can be spelt a variety of ways and indeed there are records of Mary McCue, Mary McKue and Mary McHugh.

Following the birth registration of Mary McCue born in Halifax in 1862 with a mother’s maiden name of Cannaley also draws blanks. I was unable to find a marriage between a Cannaley and any variations of McCue, and the mother’s maiden name may also be spelt wrong and could be Connelly – which also gave no results.

Researching the prison records proved resourceful in that there were many instances for Johns and Sarahs McCues and McKues, but none of the entries could be positively linked to our girl Mary.

Newspapers did not report on Mary’s hearing, though there are many stories of John McCue committing offences in and around the Leeds area, but again, nothing concrete to link him.

In regards to the census records Mary was born after 1861 and left the reform school before the 1881 census so the only census we can be sure of is the 1871

census in which she appears. Again, many Mary McCues appear in later censuses but not any that prove to be the link to her.

Sources used:

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

1871 census for the Girls' Ragged School, Windsor Street, Leeds, Yorkshire RG10 4555 folios 114 and 155

Mary McCutcheon – researched by Katie Fitzpatrick

According to the admissions' register, Mary McCutcheon was born in Leeds in 1854; she was admitted to the industrial school on February 9th, 1864 when she was just 10 years old. She didn't have the happiest of childhoods. Her father died in an asylum. Her mother is named as Elizabeth. A John McCutson died in the pauper lunatic asylum in Wakefield in 1862 and this is almost certainly Mary's father.

Mary was admitted for being "Homeless and destitution" and she was sentenced for 5 years. It is also noted on the records that she had wandering habits and she had been sent out by her mother, and deserted.

Upon Mary's discharge, it's noted that she was of good character. That her reading was 1st Class and she could write. Her general knowledge was good. This fills me with hope that Mary could go forward in life and hopefully lead a happy settled life.

A baptism record and corresponding birth registration can be found for a Mary McCutchen who was born on 22 May 1853, daughter of John and Jane of Greenwood Street, Hunslet. Did she change her mother's name on admission to hide her true identity? Has she given an incorrect name for her mother on her records as she was ashamed of her upbringing? Or were the admissions' records just inaccurate, as has been found in other instances?

This Mary's parents and eldest brother had been born in Ireland., moving to England at the time of the famine. In 1861, Mary is living with her mother and four siblings in Club Row, Headingly. Her mother, Jane, is described as a married washerwomen; there is no sign of John, perhaps he was in an asylum.

According to the 1871 census, on leaving the industrial school, Mary worked as a nurse for the Beardshaw family in Ecclesall. Her younger brother John was in the Industrial school but no admissions' record has been found. Her younger sister, Elizabeth, was a servant in Leeds. There is no sign of their mother.

On 23 April 1876 in Pitsmoor, Mary married Samuel Inman, a labourer in the steel works and by 1881, they were living in Fanshaw Road Dronfield, with two young sons. Ten years later, they were living in Harrington, Cumberland, with six children. Mary died in Cumberland in 1895.

Mary Ann Rider – researched by Steve Terry

Mary Ann Ryder was born in Leeds in 1857 **(1)**, the daughter of Joseph and Frances, who married in Leeds in 1855 **(2)**. In 1861, the family lived at 1 Fountaine Street, just to the east of the town hall **(3)**. Joseph was a machine planer and Mary Ann was their second child (Table 1). Four more children followed over the next ten years **(4)**.

Joseph Ryder	Head	28	Machine Planer	Born Leeds
Frances Ryder	Wife	31		Ditto
John K Ryder	Son	5	Scholar	Ditto
Mary Anne Ryder	Daughter	3	Infant	Ditto
James A Ryder	Son	1	Infant	Ditto

Table 1 1861 Census: entry for 1 Fountaine Street, Leeds

On 2 February 1865, Mary Ann was admitted to the Leeds Industrial School in Edgar Street. Her parents were named as Patrick and Fanny Rider **(5)**.

Mary Ann died in 1868 **(6)** and was buried in Leeds General Cemetery **(7)**.

There had been a serious outbreak of typhus in 1866 **(8)** and it may have been another outbreak in 1868 that caused the demise of Mary Ann.

Notes

1. Index of births, www.findmypast.co.uk accessed 20.01.2023.
2. Index of civil marriages, www.findmypast.co.uk accessed 20.01.2023.
3. 1861 Census, www.findmypast.co.uk accessed 20.01.2023.
4. 1871 Census, www.findmypast.co.uk accessed 20.01.2023.
5. Reformatory School Records,
www.ancestry.co.uk/search/collections/8633 accessed 20.01.2023.
6. Index of deaths, www.findmypast.co.uk accessed 20.01.2023.

7. www.findagrave.com accessed 20.01.2023.
8. www.childrenshomes.org.uk/LeedsEdgarStreetIS accessed 20.01.2023.

Jane Ann Robson – researched by Jo Ives

Jane Ann Robson was admitted to what became Leeds Girls' Industrial School on the 3rd of February 1868. The admissions register states that she was aged ten and born in Leeds. There are no other details completed and the page is crossed through with "Girl" written across it.

There was only one person registered with the name Jane Ann Robson in Leeds in 1857 or 1858. Not all births were registered at this time so this person may not necessarily be the same one that I am researching. According to the GRO Online Index, her birth was registered in the first quarter of 1857. Her mother's maiden name was Elgee.

I tried to find out the name of Jane Ann's parents but I was unable to find any good matches for a marriage between a Robson male and an Elgee female in the twenty years before her birth, even using spelling variants of Elgee.

I then tried to find siblings for Jane Ann. I was unable to find any other babies registered with the surname Robson and the mother's maiden name Elgee. However, when I allowed name variants for Elgee, I found two records:

1852 John Robson born Bradford MMN Elgey

1854 Margaret Elizabeth Robson born Bradford MMN Elggy

I was unable to find these children living together in a census so I cannot prove that they were related to Jane Ann or discover the names of their parents.

I was unable to find a marriage for Jane Ann that was local to Leeds.

I was unable to find a death for Jane Ann. However, I did find two records on Ancestry which showed that she had died in early 1869 at the age of 12. She had only been admitted a year earlier on 3rd February 1868.

According to the Register of Burials in the Leeds Burial Ground, a Jane Ann Robson who lived at the Ragged School was buried there on the 6th of February 1869. She was twelve-years-old.

I was also able to locate her on the Find a Grave website. She was buried at Beckett Street Cemetery in Leeds in a consecrated grave with plot number 4399.

I do wonder why her death wasn't registered. Was it simply overlooked or was it done deliberately, perhaps to conceal a suspicious cause of death or some other wrongdoing?

Given that she died in 1869, the only census that Jane Ann would appear on is the 1861. However, I can't find her. The closest I could find was an entry for Anne Robson, aged 4, born Leeds but she was a Lodger with no obvious parent/s.

Finally, I looked for Jane Ann in the newspaper archives on Findmypast and British Library Newspapers but was unable to find anything about her.

Sources

West Yorkshire Reformatory School Records 1856-1922, originals at West Yorkshire Archives Service WRT/1/72–77, 81–84 accessed via Ancestry

https://www.ancestry.co.uk/discoveryui-content/view/8484:8633?_phsrc=Yze9290&_phstart=successSource&gsfn=jane+ann&gsln=robson&ml_rpos=1&queryId=1fd81414400261d025e695466cfffed31

England & Wales, Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915 accessed via Ancestry

General Register Office Online Index

Find my Past Record set England & Wales Births 1837-2006

England & Wales, Civil Registration Marriage Index, 1837-1915 accessed via Ancestry

England & Wales, Civil Registration Death Index, 1837-1915 accessed via Ancestry

Find my Past Record set England & Wales Deaths 1837-2007

Register of Burials in the Leeds Burial Ground - Leeds, England, Beckett Street Cemetery, 1845-1987 accessed via Ancestry

Find a Grave Index accessed via Ancestry

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/227051433/jane-ann-robson>

1861 England Census accessed via Ancestry

British Newspapers on Find My Past

British Library Newspapers

Sarah Savage – researched by Kathy Trevelyan

Sarah was admitted to the industrial school on October 15th 1868 at the age of thirteen. The record states that she was born in York. It seems likely that she was actually fifteen on admission, she may have lied about her age to be eligible for the industrial school, rather than an adult institution. In the 1871 census, there is a Sarah A Savage, born in York, living in Lovell (?) Terrace, Leeds, working as a servant for Henry March, a cashier and it seems probably that this is her.

In 1861, this Sarah Ann is living at 3 Regent Street, York with James and Jane Savage and a younger brother, William. James and Jane née Steel didn't marry until 1856 and it seems that Sarah was registered in the June quarter of 1853 as Sarah Ann Kirby Steel, no mother's maiden name is given in the General Register Office indexes, which usually indicates that this was an illegitimate birth. The record of her baptism, on 1 May 1853 at St Cuthbert's, York, confirms this. Her mother, Jane, was recorded as a servant of Layerthorpe. James, Jane and William were still living in York in 1871. William, who appears in records with the middle names Kirby and Steel, also moved to Leeds and can be found there in 1891.

In 1881, Sarah was a servant at 5 Woodsley Terrace in Leeds, her employers were not at home on census night. This is the last sighting of Sarah.

Margaret Schouler – researched by Debbie Cameron

Margaret was born about 1858 in Manchester, the daughter of Francis and Margaret née Davies. Margaret is on the 1861 census for Scotland, living with her sister and brother in law, other sisters and cousins. The address is Balmano Street, Glasgow.

In 1871, Margaret was in the in the Ragged School. Her sister's family have moved from Glasgow and are living in Leeds with another six children. We don't know how long Margaret was at the ragged school or for what reason.

On 17 July 1879, very sadly, Margaret died at the age of twenty-one and was buried in unconsecrated ground in Beckett Street Cemetery Leeds. I don't know if this is because she was a non-conformist, a pauper or maybe a suicide. Her older sister Ann, with whom she was living in 1861 and who was living in Leeds in 1871 is also buried there in unconsecrated ground in the same year.

Louisa Skinner – researched by Anna Marie Hill

Louisa Skinner was admitted to Edgar Street Industrial School, as it had become, by William Bruce a magistrate for begging and being homeless. She was sentenced to three years.

Under previous character is states that Louisa was taken from her friends and wandered over the county to beg and that she was 'more sinned against than sinning'. At the time of sentencing Louisa did have family living in Sheffield. Her

grandmother Sarah Simpkin, an aunt Selina, an aunt Eliza living with her husband Edward, aunt Jane and an uncle George.

In the 1871 census she was recorded as age 12yrs living in the Ragged School. It was recorded as 'Not Known' where she was born. Susan Ross aged thirty was the Matron and came from Scotland.

Louisa Skinner was born 1859 in Sheffield. There is a 1861 census entry recording a Joseph who was a Silver Buffer living with a Sarah at 1 Court, Ellis Street in Sheffield. They had three children. John, Louisa and Sarah.

Life would have been very hard for the family living in this area. A detailed description is taken from The Sheffield Society. The inhabitants of this area were the poorest class living in back to back three storey houses in very dark conditions. <https://www.sheffieldhistory.co.uk/forums/topic/5952-ellis-street/>

Louisa cannot be found after her time in the Ragged School.

Ann Stead – researched by Fiona Hyde

Anne Stead was born around 1855 in Leeds, to Thomas and Eliza née Hutton, who were married in July 1853, with Anne being born two years later. In the 1861 census, however, Thomas is listed as a widower, Eliza having died the same year on the 8th March. Thomas is shown on the 1861 census to be living with his father and mother-in-law, George and Sarah Hutton, at 33 Chatham Street, Leeds, together with their four other children (Mary Ann, John, Sarah A and Fred), as well his own daughter, Anne, and one year old son Harry, plus the lodger, Thomas Ambler.

There is no record of Chatham Street today, although photos exist from 1941 of an area of rough ground where the WWII air raid shelter stood on Chatham Street, in the district known as Burley, in north Leeds. I have so far been unable to track down the exact location of the house, so I have no idea how large the property was to estimate how poor the family was, but the professions given as model maker for George Hutton (Anne's grandfather) and Cloth Draper, for her father, are not particularly prosperous careers.

Anne is convicted of stealing money and 2 ladies lockets (or Jackets, as the writing is unclear). She is sentenced to three years at the Edgar Street Ragged School and there is a notation in blue pencil that her 'time up' should be June 11th 1869. There is no physical description in the register. At the time, June 11th 1866, her father was listed as Thomas, but her mother was listed as Mary. I can find no record of Thomas remarrying, although there are Thomas and Mary Steads listed in the 1871 census but with different children.

There is an Ann Preston (née Stead) listed in the 1881 census, with the same birth year, married to William G Preston, living at 3, Burnwells, in the Parish of Idle, Bradford. William is listed as a woollen weaver, and they are living with two brothers, Samuel (widower) and his unmarried brother, George. Anne and William have three children, Mary Ann (same name as her aunt), John (same as her uncle) and Stephen. They are living with a Thomas Stead, age 70, listed as a widower and William's father in law. This would fit the timeline and ages of the people involved, give or take a couple of years. There is no conclusive proof this is Anne but the birth years match. However, Anne Stead and Thomas Stead

are common names and as such have made this a difficult search in a short time.

Sarah Jane Surridge – researched by Donna Mills

Sarah was in the Windsor Street Ragged School in 1871. Sarah Jane Surridge was born in York in 1854, her mother's maiden name was Foster. A Thomas Surridge married Frances Foster in Halifax in 1847 and they are at 34 Coney Street, York in 1861, Thomas was an Office Keeper and Chelsea Pensioner, Sarah is enumerated as Sarah A but this does appear to be the same person. There are no further confirmed sightings of Sarah.

Mary and Agnes Swailes – researched by Margaret Roberts

These two girls were admitted to the Industrial School on the same day – 14th February 1867, sheets numbers 104 and 105 respectively. The details are very sketchy and both admission records include parents' names of John and May [possibly Mary], father's occupation is Gardener and the residence noted is Homeless Beggar possibly may say Beggars.

Mary is said to be 12 years old and born in Ripon, while **Agnes** is 10 and also born in Ripon

There are no physical descriptions or other familial details other than that of their parents.

Both girls were charged with the offence of *Begging and Destitute* and were brought before the magistrates John ELLERSHAW and John COOPER Esq at Leeds on 14th February 1867

Mary was given three years with Time up on 4th Feb 1870

Agnes was given four years with Time up on 14th Feb 1871

There are no other details on the admission sheets.

Looking at Ancestry firstly there were no obvious connections to be made, the hints given I chased up, the family suggested were SWAILS with parents of John and Mary. They did have a daughter called Mary, born in 1855 which would almost fit, but no daughter called Agnes. I researched just in case - there were 8 children altogether with Mary being the 7th child, all born in the Calverley area of Yorkshire so not Ripon, although not that far away. The father John had a job throughout the census returns, as variously a; Delver, Clothier, Labourer, and Worsted Weaver, he died in 1880. Mother Mary [not May] died in 1868 of TB after suffering for 12 months, I send off for her death certificate but that held no clues to help further. All the children were baptised and registered with mother's maiden name of HOLDSWORTH, I found the parents' marriage details in the parish registers to confirm their marriage in 1841, just after the birth of the eldest child, who was not registered until after the marriage and done so as a married couple. All the children had occupations when they were old enough and the daughters married a man with an occupation, so no one homeless or destitute so I doubt this family would be a candidate family for Mary, no matter what Ancestry may suggest!

I then moved on to variations of SWAILES – including SWALES, SWAILS, SWALS, SAYES, SAILES, SAILS... and many any other phonetic variations, without success. I then searched for anyone called Mary or Agnes born across Yorkshire within a few years of the suggested birth dates with parents called John and May [Mary], followed by anyone called Mary or Agnes born in Yorkshire with a surname that could be thought of as SWAILES or sound like it. I repeated all the searches using FMP and The Genealogist, GRO and Yorkshire BMD

I moved on to search the newspapers and concentrated on the period January-June 1867, which would cover the period the girls were admitted to the school. I used various search terms such as names and variations of alongside other terms such as *industrial school*, *beggar*, *destitute*, *convicted*, and I searched for the names of the magistrates ELLERSHAW and COOPER, both together and individually, as there were many reports in the paper that would say who criminals and the like were up before in court – so there may have been a mention that could be linked to these two girls. Again, nothing that matched Mary and Agnes at all. I also searched the newspapers around the months that both girls were released but again no positive results.

Other searches/considerations I made were that perhaps the girls weren't sisters at all, but as we can only search on the information given on the admission sheets and the girls both state the same parental details, then that would only be speculation. I did also consider the handwriting on the form and looked at other admission sheets to compare the way SWAILES was written to try and determine if perhaps the name was something else. I then moved on to check the girls on the Ragged School entry in the 1871 census in case there

were similar names and again drew a blank and finally I investigated the boys in both the Ragged School and Shadwell School for a familial link, which I concluded there was not.

I have therefore reluctantly decided that the one or more of the details on the admission sheet contain some inaccuracies and that for the moment Mary and Agnes are lost to us.

Ellen Taylor – researched by Sian Plant

Ellen TAYLOR was born on 21 March 1862 in Birmingham. She was the daughter of William a French polisher and Elizabeth. She was baptised privately as “Ellen Maria” 25 Apr 1862 St Bartholemew, Birmingham, daughter of William & Elizabeth born 21 March 1862, father a French polisher, resident New Bartholemew Street. However, there is no sign of the parents at this address (or any other) in 1861. From the civil registration of her birth in the June Quarter 1862 in Birmingham her mother’s maiden name COOPER. No marriage has been found for parents nor has it been possible to identify any siblings with certainty: there appear to have been several families of surname TAYLOR and mother’s maiden name COOPER in Birmingham Registration District alone judging by an overlap in birth registrations.

Despite William’s “respectable” occupation, this may well have always been an unstable family. Some time around 1866-7 William deserted the family (2 and a half years before Ellen was admitted to the school) and Elizabeth became a beggar and was at one point (or several) was in prison.

At the time of her entry to the Ragged School on 9 Aug Ellen was described as having light brown hair, light brown eyes, of slender build with a light complexion. She had “been scalded above the elbow of right arm, her three bottom teeth in front decayed, top ditto out (?)”. The scalding is suggestive of neglect.

Ellen’s “offence” on entry to the school was begging and being homeless. She was taken to Tun Hall (? Town Hall) with her mother on 9 August 1869. She was sentenced to 8 years, and a different hand notes “time up Aug 9 1877”. Ellen had never been to school and could not read or write and had no maths skills. She had never been employed but “has been ... on the country for years often to the Union when mother was in prison”.

It has not been possible to trace Ellen after the 1871 census when she is listed as being resident at the school. She may be the Ellen TAYLOR whose death is registered Q3 1873 Leeds aged 10 Vol 9b p 294. No corresponding burial has been found. Similarly, it has been impossible to trace either parent.

Sources used:

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

1871 census for the Girls’ Ragged School, Windsor Street, Leeds, Yorkshire RG10 4555 folios 114 and 155

Birmingham, England, Church of England Baptisms, 1813-1919, Ancestry General Register Office Online Indexes

Catherine Thompson – researched by Taralyn Parker

On 7 May 1867, a 7 year old girl named Catherine Thompson was committed to the Shadwell Children's Centre.¹ She was born in Leeds in 1860, but no parents or other relations are recorded. Sadly, her admission sheet bears no further identifying information. Where did Catherine come from and what became of her? Let's explore the possibilities.

I discovered an infant Catherine Thompson in the 1861 census.² Daughter of Patrick and Bridget Thompson, this Catherine was born in 1860 in Leeds, Yorkshire, England. Catherine and her family resided in Leeds at 3 Lands Court. She is listed as being 10/12 at the time the census was taken. Her parents, Patrick (age 36 at the time of the census) and Bridget (age 36), were born in Ireland as was her older brother, Patrick (age 13). Her sister Ann, age 12, worked in the Flax Mill. Two additional brothers - William, age 8, and John, age 3, are also listed. At the time of the census, Catherine was the youngest of five children. A possible sixth child, Thomas, is also listed, but crossed out. Thomas is reported as being in the army.

Catherine is next found in the 1871 census recorded as a 10 year old born in Yorkshire, Leeds.³ She, and the other girls on the page, are listed as being scholars at the Ragged School.

Her brother, William, may have also been admitted to a Ragged School. I discovered a mention of him in the West Yorkshire, England, County Coroner Notebook.⁴ William Thompson was born about 1853 and his father's name is listed as Patrick which correlates with the 1861 census. He died at the age of 15 in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, England. The document says that William was committed to the Ragged + Industrial School 4 years prior (approximately 1864). He was apprenticed to George Utley, a coal miner. It reads that he was a large strong boy for his age + healthy + active.

I could find no other records for her siblings, Ann and John. Her older brother, Patrick, may have immigrated to America. There is a death record for a Patrick Thompson, son of Patrick Thompson and Bridget Mellan of Ireland with a similar birth year.⁵ Further information is needed to confirm this connection.

Unfortunately, I did not discover any further records for Catherine past 1871, nor for her parents. It is not known if she married, had children, or how/when she died. Perhaps by digging deeper we can discover more of Catherine Thompson's story.

1. 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
2. [1861 England Census - Ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)
3. 1871 census for the Girls' Ragged School, Windsor Street, Leeds, Yorkshire RG10 4555 folios 114 and 155
4. [West Yorkshire, England, County Coroner Notebooks, 1852-1909 - Ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)
5. [Pennsylvania, U.S., Death Certificates, 1906-1968 - Ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

Ada Waddington researched by Abbie Goldman-Senior

The information on Ada in the school record is rather sparse:

No. 156, Admitted: 11th March 1868, **Born:** Leeds, **Age:** 10

There were only 2 Ada Waddingtons born round about the correct year in the GRO records, i) Ada Waddington, Dec. ¼ 1857 in Leeds with no mother's maiden name given

ii) Ada Waddington, Sept. ¼ 1859, in Huddersfield with mother's maiden name, Wood.

A quick check on the Ada born in Huddersfield seems to show that she was with her family in 1861 and 1871 censuses and there are other siblings so it is probably not this one.

In 1861 (RG10/3392/127?/ 81/181, Dist. 40) can be found Fanny Waddington a 34 year old widow. There is a son, Edgar aged 8 and Ada, daughter, aged 4.

Looking for Edgar's baptism in West Yorkshire Church of England Baptisms it is found that Fanny was actually unmarried. His middle name is Towers perhaps indicating the name of the father. Ada was also baptised but not until 23rd Nov. 1879 when she was aged 20, the parents recorded as John and Fanny, John a plasterer, the name given for the father on both Edgar's marriage to Martha Ann Hoyle in 8th Nov. 1876 and Ada's marriage on 1st Oct also in 1876 to Henry Cullingworth.

In 1871 Edgar is still living with his mother in Bedford Place, Leeds, his occupation a fishmonger whilst Fanny is an upholsterer. Ada is in the Ragged School. We are not told which year Ada left the school but in June ¼ 1876 she gave birth to a son William Cullingworth Waddington a few months before she married his father Henry and William later took on his father's surname, Cullingworth.

Fanny and Henry's son does not appear with them in 1881 but as a "nurse child" with widow, Mary A. Tyreman. However he returns to his parents by 1891 when they are living in Bramley Mount. In 1901 Henry and Fanny have a boarder, Thomas A Dyson but are alone in 1911.

Finding the son, William is more problematic as there are several William Cullingworths but sadly the most likely one follows the wrong path. On Ancestry's criminal records there are a number of William Cullingworths. One accused of indecent exposure was eliminated by the newspaper report which gave his age as 41 which ruled him out, however several of the others were confirmed in the records as being named William Waddington, alias Cullingworth and in some his occupation is given as "clicker" (a worker making parts of shoes), the same occupation as his father. William was continually in and out of goal usually with hard labour. He was described as 5' 4 1/2" of fair complexion with brown hair and green eyes. He had "S DENNISON" on his right forearm. His offences were usually to do with breaking and entering but on one he assaulted Samuel Dixon with intent to do grievous bodily harm.

Ada died in March ¼ 1919. In 1921 Henry is living with his brother in law Albert Girling and his wife, Emma, still in the boot and shoe industry. He died 3rd March 1927. William seems to be in the shadows after 1911.

Sources:

Censuses on Ancestry and Find My Pat

Criminal records from West Yorkshire and the Habitual Criminals' Register on Ancestry

Newspapers on Find My Past

Gro births and deaths

West Yorkshire baptisms and burials on Ancestry.

Ellen Watson – researched by Fiona Ranger

Ten-year-old Ellen Watson was admitted to the Industrial School on 12 May 1868. Her birthplace was 'no known' and no further details are given. No siblings were admitted with her.

In the 1871 census, Ellen was in the Ragged School in Windsor Street, Leeds. She was enumerated as twelve years old and again her birthplace was not known.

On the 22nd December 1867, an Ellen Watson, daughter of George and Lucy Watson of Hope Street, was baptised at St. Peter's, Leeds. She had been born on 12 May 1857. Her father was a cordwainer. This could be the same Ellen. If so, her mother, Lucy Watson, wife of George, a cordwainer, of 9 Bell Street,

was buried at Beckett Street non-conformist cemetery on Leeds on 16 October 1869. There is no further trace of this family.

An Ellen Watson, spinster, of Wakefield Asylum, was buried in Becket Street Cemetery on 23 April 1893, aged 38, this too could be Ellen but with a common surname it is difficult to be sure.