

# *This is A Few Forgotten Women Story*



*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.*

## **Sarah Hargreaves**

Sarah Hargreaves was 9 years old when she was admitted to the Leeds Industrial School on 28 January 1867 having been sentenced to three years. She was said to be the daughter of William Hargreaves, a glass blower and his wife Sarah of Grey Street, Waterloo Road, Hunslet, further research has shown that her mother's name was more likely to have been Ellen. No description of Sarah was listed, no other family members and no schools attended. The columns on the opposite page for detailing her conduct whilst at the school and after leaving have been left blank. Her offence is almost impossible to read but appears to be 'Refractory and stealing also had to do with an old man'. In this case, "do" may refer to ditto. No newspaper reports of her wrongdoing and conviction have been found.

It seems likely that she was the child of William Hargreave(s) and Ellen Batley who married at Wakefield All Saints, 23 February 1857. William is described as a

glass maker, aged 20, son of Thomas Hargreave, weaver. Ellen is also aged 20, daughter of William Batley, miner. Both made their mark rather than sign. The General Register Office has a birth of Sarah Hargreave registered the March quarter of 1857 in Hunslet, with the mother's maiden name as Batley. A further entry in the Birth Index has Mary Jane Hargreave registered in the December quarter of 1858 in Hunslet with the Mother's Maiden Name of Batley. Mary Jane would appear to be enumerated as Jane in 1871. No other children were found in the GRO indexes, registered in Hunslet with mother's maiden name of Batley.

The 1861 Census shows William, a glass maker aged 23 with his wife Ellen aged 22 and two daughters, Sarah aged 4 and Mary Jane aged 2 living on Grove Street in Hunslet. By the time of the 1871 Census there is no sign of William but Ellen who describes herself as a wife is a flax dresser as are Sarah aged 14 and Jane aged 13 and they are living at 3 Balm Place in Hunslet. Ellen and William do not appear in a Census record together again and no definitive death has been found for William.

It proved difficult to track Sarah after 1871 until an Ellen Hargreaves whose details match those of Sarah's mother was found in the 1911 Census, listed a grandmother in the household of James Hewitt Hartley and his wife Elizabeth. Elizabeth was found to be the daughter of John Corps and Sarah whose details fitted with 'our' Sarah. A marriage between Sarah Hargreaves and John Corps took place in Hunslet in the September Quarter of 1876.

The Census of 1881 for Morley has John Corps, a wheelwright, and his wife Sarah living at Bridge Street with their children John William aged 6, Richard 4, Sarah Ellen 3, and 5 month old Elizabeth. John William Corps would appear to have

been born prior to Sarah and John's marriage and is likely to be the John William Hargreaves registered in Hunslet in the September Quarter of 1874 with no maiden name given for the mother.

Sarah gave birth to fifteen children between 1874 and 1899 but like so many women at that time she faced child mortality. Richard died aged 4 in 1881 and five more children were born and died without being enumerated in a Census; Annie 1884 -1887, Richard 1888 – 1888, Charles 1891 – 1892, May 1896 – 1897 and Florence 1898 – 1900. It also seems as if Arthur may have died aged 7 in July 1901.

The places that their children's births are registered show that Sarah and John moved around the area a bit. John William 1874, Richard 1877 and Sarah Ellen 1879 were registered in Hunslet; Elizabeth 1880, Mary Jane 1882, Annie 1884, Ada 1886 and the second son named Richard 1888 were registered in Dewsbury; Henry was registered in Hunslet in 1889; Charles 1891, Arthur 1893 and Ann 1895 were registered in Wakefield; May was registered in Hunslet in 1896 with Florence 1898 and James Ernest 1899 being registered in Leeds. Leeds, Wakefield and Dewsbury form a triangle in West Yorkshire with Hunslet now being a suburb of Leeds.

It seems that 1888 was an eventful year for Sarah as she appears in the newspapers on two separate occasions. In August a dress and skirt were stolen from her house in Morley by 11 year old Sarah Ann Aaron who admitted to the theft. In December of that year Sarah claimed that her landlord assaulted her when she was unable to pay the rent, it transpired that some days later her husband had gone to the landlord and tried to get money from him. However, a

former owner of the cottage she and her family resided in was a witness and claimed that she had accused him of the same crime when unable to pay the rent and when John Corps came to confront him about the alleged assault he demanded money which was paid rather than suffering a scandal. The case was dismissed.

In the 1891 Census we find the family living on Rothwell Haigh in Lofthouse with Carlton which are hamlets between Leeds and Wakefield. John is now 39 and still a wheelwright, Sarah is 36 and no occupation is listed. John William 16, Sarah Ellen 12, Elizabeth 10, Mary Jane 9, Ada 4 and Harry 1 are all living with them. It is probable that Sarah was pregnant at this time with Charles. They also have a lodger named John Brown. The family are still at Rothwell Haigh in 1893 when Sarah is mentioned as being a "married woman of Rothwell Haigh" when appearing as a witness in a court case involving her mother Ellen. Ellen had been accused of stealing two beds; Sarah claimed that her mother had bought them. The final newspaper article found is from 1895 and Sarah is still in Rothwell Haigh, this time she has been accused of assault by John Carr. Unfortunately, there is currently a problem with viewing that article.

In the 1901 Census, the Corps family are at Salem Place in Leeds and their name has been spelled as Corpse. Sarah is listed as being 43 and has no occupation given. John is 49 and still a wheelwright. Living with them are Sarah E aged 21, Elizabeth 19 and Ada 16, all domestic servants; Harry 12, Arthur 7, Ann 6, and James E 2 along with a 10 month old granddaughter named Nelly Corps.

A Sarah Corps died in the June Quarter of 1910 aged 53 and was interred at Hunslet Cemetery with the date of 30<sup>th</sup> April although it is not clear whether this

is the death or internment date. Find A Grave lists her as being the wife of Tom Corps but this is possibly a mistake as another Sarah Corps of the right age and in the right place has not been found. It appears that she died in Leeds Infirmary. John Corps died in the March Quarter of 1911 aged 60 and according to Find A Grave he was a Wheelwright of 6 Back Cheap Street in Hunslet. Find A Grave gives a date of 2<sup>nd</sup> March but again it is not clear whether this refers to the date of death or the date of internment.

#### Sources Used:

West Yorkshire Reformatory School Records 1856 – 1922, WRT/1/72-77, 81-84. Originals held at West Yorkshire Archives Service, accessible on [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

General Register Office online indexes [www.gro.gov.uk](http://www.gro.gov.uk)

#### Births

Hargreave, Sarah, Mother's Maiden Name Batley; 1857 March Quarter in Hunslet; Volume 09B, Page 303

Hargreave, Mary Jane, Mother's Maiden Name Batley; 1858 December Quarter in Hunslet; Volume 09B, Page 257

Hargreaves, John William, Mother's Maiden Name – ; 1874 September Quarter in Hunslet; Volume 09B Page 319

Corpes, Richard, Mother's Maiden Name Hargreaves; 1877 June Quarter in Hunslet; Volume 09B Page 310

Corps, Sarah Ellen, Mother's Maiden Name Hargreaves; 1879 March Quarter in Hunslet; Volume 09B Page 332

Corps, Elizabeth, Mother's Maiden Name Hargreaves; 1880 December Quarter in Dewsbury; Volume 09B Page 592

Corps, Mary Jane, Mother's Maiden Name Hargreaves; 1882 June Quarter in Dewsbury; Volume 09B Page 590

Corps, Annie, Mother's Maiden Name Hargreaves; 1884 March Quarter in Dewsbury;  
Volume 09B Page 564

Corps, Ada, Mother's Maiden Name Hargreaves; 1886 March Quarter in Dewsbury; Volume  
09B Page 600

Corpse, Richard, Mother's Maiden Name Hargreaves; 1888 March Quarter in Dewsbury;  
Volume 09B Page 578

Corps, Henry, Mother's Maiden Name Hargreaves; 1889 September Quarter in Hunslet;  
Volume 09B Page 263

Corps, Charles, Mother's Maiden Name Hargreaves; 1891 September Quarter in Wakefield;  
Volume 09C Page 82

Corps Arthur, Mother's Maiden Name Hargreaves; 1893 March Quarter in Wakefield;  
Volume 09C Page 87

Corps, Ann, Mother's Maiden Name Hargreaves; 1895 March Quarter in Wakefield; Volume  
09C Page 95

Corps, May, Mother's Maiden Name Hargreaves; 1896 September Quarter in Hunslet;  
Volume 09B Page 253

Corps, Florence, Mother's Maiden Name Hargreaves; 1898 March Quarter in Leeds; Volume  
09B Page 400

Corps, Janes Ernest, Mother's Maiden Name Hargreaves; 1899 June Quarter in Leeds;  
Volume 09B Page 423

#### Deaths

Corps, Richard aged 4; 1881 September Quarter in Dewsbury; Volume 09B Page 313

Corpse, Annie aged 3; 1887 March Quarter in Dewsbury; Volume 09B Page 415

Corps, Richard, aged 0; 1888 September Quarter in Dewsbury; Volume 09B Page 353

Corps, Charles, aged 1; 1892 December Quarter in Wakefield; Volume 09C Page 47

Corps, May, aged 0; 1897 June Quarter in Leeds; Volume 09B Page 233

Corps, Florence, aged 2; 1900 June Quarter in Leeds; Volume 09B Page 261

Corps, Arthur, aged 7; 1901 September Quarter in Leeds; Volume 09B Page 340

Corps, Sarah, aged 53; 1910 June Quarter in Leeds; Volume 09B Page 236

Corps, John, aged 60; 1911 March Quarter in Leeds; Volume 09B Page 228

1861 England Census; RG09/3367/14 page 22 [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

1871 England Census; RG10/4511/166 page 23 [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

1881 England Census; RG11/4543/49 pp24-25 [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

1891 England Census; RG12/3755/89 page 25 [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

1901 England Census; RG13/4215/91 page 28 [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

1911 England Census; RG14/27138, schedule 212 [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

1888 Dewsbury Chronicle and West Riding Advertiser 04 August 1888; British Newspaper Archive via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

1888 Batley Reporter and Guardian 29 December 1888; British Newspaper Archive via [www.findmypast.co.uk](http://www.findmypast.co.uk)

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Find a Grave [findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com)