

Biography of William Liversedge

B. 1810, D 1881

Written by Lesley Collins, 6 Jan 2022

William Liversedge was an inmate in the Leeds Union Workhouse on the night of the 1881 Census (1). He was born in Birstall, was a 70-year-old Widower, and had worked as a Warehouseman.

William's parents, William and Mary, lived in the township of Liversedge, now part of the Borough of Kirklees in West Yorkshire (2). William (senior) was a Weaver and the couple had at least 3 children, of which William (junior) was the 2nd. He was baptized in St Peter, Birstall, on 8 April 1810 and at that time the family lived at Liversedge Hall, a listed building built in 1600 AD, probably in one of the attached cottages rather than the Hall itself (3).

On 11 April 1830, William married Elizabeth Walker in All Saints, Dewsbury. Both apparently lived in the parish and William worked as a Clothier (6). By 1841, the couple had moved to Little Woodhouse, a small village at the time, to the North of Leeds City Centre (7, 8). William worked as a Warehouse Keeper, and they had a 5-year-old son, John Henry, and a 14-year-old servant. The following year, Harriet Elisabeth was born and baptized 6 months later in Leeds St Peter parish church (9).

By 1851, the family had moved to the East End of Bradford where William was working as a maker of Worsted of Stuffs. Harriet was with her parents but there was no mention of their son John and there was no trace of any of the family in 1861 (10).

In 1871, William and Elisabeth lived in Hollis St, West Leeds (11). Again, there was no mention of their children but they did have a 10 year old nephew, George Brown, living with them and William was back working as a Warehouseman. Sadly, Elisabeth died in Oct 1872 and was buried in Woodhouse Cemetery, aged 63 (12).

William was admitted to the Workhouse sometime after and was there on Census night 1881. He died in the Leeds Union Infirmary and was buried, not in Woodhouse with his wife, but in the Anglican section in Beckett St Cemetery on 10 Sept 1881 (13).

Reference list:

1. 'William Liversedge' (1881) Census return for Leeds Union Workhouse, RG11/4524, f102, p10, on www.ancestry.co.uk (Accessed 5 Jan 2022)
2. 'William Liversedge' (1810) Baptism entry, Birstall, W Yorks Parish Registers on www.ancestry.co.uk (Accessed 5 Jan 2022)
3. 'Liversedge Hall' General information on <https://britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/101134606-> (Accessed 5 Jan 2022)
4. 'Heavy Woollen District' General info on <https://www.spennyvalleycivicsociety.org.uk/heritage/luddites> (Accessed 5 Jan 2022)
5. 'Liversedge Luddite Rebellion' General info on https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heavy_Woollen_District (Accessed 5 Jan 2022)
6. 'William Liversedge' (1830) Transcript of All Saints, Dewsbury, Marriages 1829-37, Huddersfield & District FHS, FH929.3 available in Leeds Central Library, (Accessed 8 Jan 2022)
7. 'William Liversedge' (1841) Census entry for Little Woodhouse, Leeds, HO107/1349/6 p4, on www.familysearch.org (Wm, Elis & John H Liversedge do not appear on Ancestry index) (Accessed 5 Jan 2022)

8. 'Little Woodhouse' General info available on <http://littlewoodhouseonline.com/little-woodhouse/> (Accessed 5 Jan 2022)
9. 'Harriet Elisabeth Liversedge' (1842) Born 30 Nov 1842, Bapt 2 April 1843, Leeds St Peter, entry on W Yorks Parish Registers, available on www.ancestry.co.uk (Accessed 5 Jan 2022)
10. 'William Liversedge' (1851) Census return for Harkers House, Bradford East End, HO107/2307, f98, p9, sch40, available on www.ancestry.co.uk (Accessed 5 Jan 2022)
11. 'William Liversedge' (1871) Census return for 9 Hollis St, W Leeds, RG10/4563, f137, p11, sch60, available on www.ancestry.co.uk (Accessed 5 Jan 2022)
12. 'Elisabeth Liversedge' (1872) Burial 23 Oct 1872, Woodhouse Cemetery, UK Find a Grave Index on www.ancestry.co.uk (Accessed 5 Jan 2022)
13. 'William Liversedge' (1881) From the Infirmary, Burial entry Becket St, Cemetery, Leeds, on www.ancestry.co.uk (Accessed 3 Jan 2022) (Accessed 5 Jan 2022)