

## Charles Lucas

(b. 1822, d.1882)

Written by Barbara Winfield, 18 January 2022

Charles Lucas was born in Leeds on 14 November, 1822 and was baptised at Leeds Parish Church on 31 March 1823 **(1)**. His parents were James and Jane Lucas and his father's occupation was a 'bricklayer'. At the time they were living in Mabgate, a densely populated area of Leeds. James and Jane (nee Jefferson) had married on October 6<sup>th</sup> 1820 at Leeds Parish Church **(2)** and James was their first child. Three other siblings were born later: William in 1824, Sarah in 1826 and Mary Ann in 1836.

In 1841 **(3)** Charles was living with his parents, brother William and sister Mary Ann in Holmfield Yard, Leeds, where his parents stayed for many years.

Charles could not be found on the 1851 census records, but in 1861**(4)** he was documented as being a boarder in Dukinfield, Staleybridge, Cheshire. He was aged 36 and his occupation was described as an 'iron moulder' (*someone who made moulds for casting iron*).

It is not known how long Charles lived and worked in Dukinfield, but on the 1871 census **(5)** he was recorded as a hospital patient in the spa town of Ilkley, Yorkshire, ten miles from his hometown of Leeds. He was now 46 years old and still described as an 'iron moulder'. The hospital in Ilkley was probably the 'Ilkley Hospital and Convalescent Home' **(6)**. (*The building still stands on The Grove in Ilkley and is now the Abbeyfield Care Home*). It opened in 1862 and was built as a subscription hospital for the 'Ilkley Bath Charity' which needed somewhere more salubrious for its patients than the overcrowded conditions they were staying in previously. A subscription of one guinea entitled the subscriber to nominate a poor patient from the surrounding towns to stay for two to three weeks so they could benefit from the Ilkley waters and clean fresh air. A donation of £40 could send a patient a year for life. How and why Charles was nominated remains a mystery.

By 1881**(7)** he was an inmate in the Leeds Union Workhouse, and he died in the Union Infirmary a year later, the cause of death being 'Hemiplegia' and 'disease of the kidneys'**(8)**. His death was reported by his sister Sarah Tootell and the certificate notes that prior to being in the workhouse he was living in the Brown Cow Yard, off Meadow Lane, Leeds. His other sister Mary Ann and her husband were also recorded as living in Brown Cow Yard in 1871.

Charles was buried in Beckett Street Cemetery on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 1882 **(9)**, his age being given as 59. He shared his grave (number 2773 in the consecrated section) with four other adults and four children. Charles never married, but he did have some relatives living in the Leeds area. (*Charles' mother had died in 1856, his father in 1864, his sister Sarah in 1911, and Sarah's husband in 1891 and son in 1941. They were all buried in the same grave (3330) in Beckett Street Cemetery, but Charles did not share that grave with them.*)

### Reference list

(1) 'Charles Lucas' (1823) Baptism of Charles Lucas, 31 March 1823. Leeds Parish Church West Yorkshire Church of England Births and Baptisms 1813-1910. Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 25 January 2022).

(2) 'James Lucas' (1820) Marriage of James Lucas and Jane Jefferson 6 October, 1820 Leeds Parish Church. West Yorkshire Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1813-1935. Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 25 January 2022).

(3) 'Charles Lucas' (1841) Census return for Leeds Town, sub-district, Kirkgate. Public Record Office: PRO HO107/1348/10, folio 7, p.6 (1841). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 25 January 2022).

(4) 'Charles Lucas' (1861) Census return for Back Grosvenor Street, Dukenfield sub-district, Dukenfield. Public Record Office: PRO RG9 /3374, folio 47, p.31 (1861). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 22 January 2022).

(5) 'Charles Lucas' (1871) Census return for Ilkley, Wharfedale, sub-district, Otley. Public Record Office: PRO RG10 /4303, folio24, p.41 (1871). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 22 January 2022).

(6) 'Ilkley Hospital and Convalescent Home' 1893 by William Cudworth. Available at: [Wikimedia.org](http://www.wikimedia.org) (Accessed 22 January 2022)

(7) 'Charles Lucas' (1881) Census return for Leeds Union Workhouse sub-district, North Leeds. Public Record Office: PRO RG11/4524, folio 102, p. 10(1881). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 22 January 2022).

(8) 'Charles Lucas' (1882)). Certified entry recording death on the Civil Registration Index, 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 1882 Leeds Volume 9b Page 301 Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 22 January 2022).

(9) 'Burial of Charles Lucas' 13 October 1882 Leeds, Beckett Street Cemetery (1845 –1987) Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 22 January 2022).