

William Lucas

(b. 1833, d.1883)

Written by Barbara Winfield, 25 January 2022

William Lucas was born in Leeds on February 28th 1833 and was baptised at Leeds Parish Church on September 22nd of that year **(1)**. He was the fourth child of nine children born to John and Sarah Lucas, eight of whom were male. At the time the family were living in the overcrowded and poverty stricken 'Bank' area of Leeds and William's father was a tailor working in the growing clothing industry of the city.

In 1841 **(2)**, when William was eight years old, he was living with his parents and five siblings, the youngest of whom was only 6 weeks old, at 20, Mill Street in east Leeds.

Ten years later **(3)** in the 1851 census, William was found to be a prisoner in Armley Jail (which had only opened four years previously). In 1850 William had been charged with stealing three silk and three pocket handkerchiefs for which he was sent to the House of Correction with hard labour **(4), (5)**. In 1854 he was also charged with stealing an item of clothing.

On 31st August 1860, William married Mary Coulman at Leeds Parish Church **(6), (7)**. William was described as a cloth dresser and was living at Hope Street at the time of their marriage. Mary was living at Mason Street and her father, John Coulman was described as a 'roper'.

The following year, **(8)** William and Mary were living in Richmond Court, in East Leeds, and shared their dwelling with three other boarders. William was still described as a cloth dresser, another important occupation in the clothing industry. *(Cloth-dressers (croppers) had the task of cutting the cloth after it had been in the fulling mill. The cropper's skill was to cut the surface of the cloth after it had been raised with shears.)*

In 1867, **(9)** William's wife died and was buried in Beckett Street Cemetery in March 24th, her address being given as 13, Wellington Place and her age as thirty **(10)**. Two years earlier, in April 1865, William's father had also died and was buried in Beckett Street Cemetery.

In 1871 **(11)** William, aged 37 and a widower, was living in the Headingley area of north Leeds. He was lodging in Back Wordsworth Street and was still working as a cloth dresser.

By 1881 **(12)** William had become an inmate in the Leeds Union Workhouse, but it is not known how long he had been there. Two years later he died aged 50 in the Leeds Union Infirmary. He was buried in the consecrated section of Beckett Street Cemetery in April 1883 **(13)** and shared his grave with four other adults and four children. (Grave number 11075)

Reference list:

(1) 'William Lucas' (1833) Baptism of William Lucas, 22 September 1833. 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) 'William Lucas' (1841) Census return for Mill Street, Leeds, sub-district, Kirkgate. Public Record Office: PRO HO107/1343/5, folio 25, p.5 (1841). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 25 January 2022).

(3) 'William Lucas' (1851) Census return for Leeds, sub-district, Wortley. Public Record Office: PRO

HO107/2314, folio 567, p.13 (1841). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 25 January 2022).

(4) 'William Lucas' 1850 Yorkshire, England, Quarter Session Records 1637-1914 Page 240 Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 25 January 2022).

(5) 'William Lucas' 1850 All England and Wales Criminal Registers 1791-1892240 Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 25 January 2022).

(6) 'William Lucas and Mary Coulman' (1860) Certified entry recording marriage on the Civil Registration Index, Leeds, 3rd quarter 1860 Vol.9b page 431 Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 25 January 2022).

(7) 'William Lucas and Mary Coulman' (1860) Marriage of William Lucas and Mary Coulman' 31 August 1860 Leeds Parish Church. West Yorkshire Church of England Marriages and Banns 1813 – 1935. Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 25 January 2022)

(8) 'William Lucas' (1861) Census return for Richmond Court, Leeds, sub-district, South east Leeds. Public Record Office: PRO RG9 /3376, folio 47, p.14 (1861). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 25 January 2022).

(9) 'Mary Lucas' (1867)) Certified entry recording death on the Civil Registration Index, Leeds, 1st quarter 1867 Vol.9b page 347 Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 25 January 2022).

(10) 'Burial of Mary Lucas' 24 March 1867 Leeds, Beckett Street Cemetery (1845 –1987) Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 22 January 2022).

(11) William Lucas' (1871) Census return for Back Wordsworth Street, Leeds, sub-district, Kirkstall. Public Record Office: PRO RG10 /4570, folio 53, p.38 (1861). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 25 January 2022).

(12) 'William 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).

(13) 'William Lucas' (1883). Certified entry recording death on the Civil Registration Index, 3rd quarter 1883 Leeds Volume 9b Page 252 Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 22 January 2022).

(9) 'Burial of William Lucas' 25 July 1883 Leeds, Beckett Street Cemetery (1845 –1987) Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 22 January 2022).