

John Waite

(1823-1888)

13 April 2020

Carolyn Huston

John Waite's life was marked by bereavement. He was married 3 times; all his wives died before him and his only child also died before him.

John was born on 11th August 1823¹. He was the son of Benjamin and Mary Waite and was baptised at St Wilfred's Church, Calverley, Yorkshire on 12th October 1823¹. The baptismal record shows the family were resident at Rodley¹, which is situated next to the Leeds to Liverpool Canal. Benjamin was a shuttle maker¹ at that time and the shuttles that he made would have been used for weaving. Woollen weaving was the predominant industry in that area with mills situated all along the canal.

John appeared in the 1841 census return living at Lane End in Yeadon, near Otley². He was a coal miner, aged about 20, and living with his mother and two younger siblings, Richard and Sarah². His father did not appear in the census so it is likely that John's mother, Mary, was a widow by 1841.

In 1843 John married his first wife, Susannah Lambert³. On 16th October they married at St Peter's Parish Church in Leeds⁴ although both bride and groom lived in Bramley. Susannah was a widow, aged 25, but John was marrying for the first time. Susannah's father was Thomas Ward, a clothier, and John's father, Benjamin Waite, was shown as having been a 'delver'⁴, a person who dug ditches⁵. Both John and Susannah did not sign the register but instead made their marks⁴, suggesting John could not read or write. Susannah and John did not have much time together because in 1845 she died⁶.

On 5th October 1846, John Waite married for the second time^{7,8}. He married Jane Andrew (née Smith), a widow, who was quite a bit older than him⁸. Jane was 51 and John was 23. They married by banns at St Peter's Parish Church in Leeds and, once again, both bride and groom were resident in Bramley, Leeds. John was shown in the marriage register as a miner and his father, Benjamin, as a delver⁸. Jane's father was Robert Smith, a lime burner⁸. Once again, John signed the marriage register with his mark, as did Jane⁸.

The couple were shown in the 1851 census living in Greengates, Eccleshill¹⁰, near Bradford. John was shown as a 'collier journeyman'. Also living in the house was a 15 year old boy, James Moor, a collier. He was listed as an apprentice to the head of

house, John Waite, so may have been apprenticed directly to John, rather than employed by a coal mine. Eccleshill had a large coal mining industry, but the layers of coal were thin and fairly superficial, so a lot of the mining was done with shallow pits. Sometimes the coal was exposed on the surface and mined using bell pits, but more commonly by digging shallow shafts and following the thin seams of coal, leaving behind pillars to support the roof⁹. The fact that John Waite had an apprentice suggests he was involved in this type of mining, perhaps on his own account.

In 1852, John's wife, Jane Waite (née Smith) died aged 57¹¹. Her age was shown as 53 on the civil registration of her death¹¹. She was buried in the Beckett Street Cemetery on 12th October 1852 in grave no 1881, in the Anglican sector of the Cemetery¹². Her address was given as Turvey Rd., and her age as 52.

On 20th February 1854^{13,14}, John Waite married for the third and last time. Once again he was married in St Peter's Parish Church, in Leeds¹⁴. His bride was Ann Shipley, a spinster, aged 28. Both the bride and groom were living in Burmantofts, Leeds and John was listed as a miner¹⁴. His father, Benjamin was shown as a mason on this record. Ann was the daughter of John Shipley, a labourer¹⁴. Both parties signed the marriage register with their marks.

In the first quarter of 1855, John and Ann Waite's daughter, Mary, was born¹⁵. Sadly, her mother, Ann, died at the age of 33 in 1859¹⁶. Ann was buried at St Peter's Church, Chapelry in Bramley on 23rd October 1859¹⁷. The burial record shows that Ann, and presumably the whole family, was living in Bramley at the time of her death¹⁷.

The 1861 census showed John Waite living with his 5 year old daughter, Mary, as boarders in Beeston, Leeds. They were boarding with an elderly man and his wife at 3, Old Peacock¹⁸. John was still working as a miner. By 1871 John and his daughter, Mary, now aged 15, were living as lodgers at 16 Shaw Street¹⁹. Shaw Street was situated just north east of The Marsh Lane Goods Station, off Greenfield Road²⁰. There were several coal miners living in this area as shown on the 1871 census return, including John's landlord. Mary was working as a linen weaver¹⁹.

John's daughter, Mary, died in 1872²¹. She was buried in the Anglican Sector of Beckett Street Cemetery on 30th June 1872, in grave number 4862 which was a shared grave²². The burial register notes that she was aged 17 and was the daughter of John Waite. Her residence was given as 16 Shaw Street²².

By 1881 John Waite was an inmate in the Leeds Union Workhouse on Beckett Street in Leeds²³. He was listed on the census as a widower, aged 64, though he was, in fact, only 58. He was a coal miner, but at the time the census was taken, he had no occupation²³.

9. 'Neglected Bradford Industries: Coal mining' (20 June 2017) Bradford and District Local Studies Library Available at :
<https://bradfordlocalstudies.wordpress.com/2017/06/20/neglected-bradford-industries-coal-mining/> (Accessed 13 April 2020)
10. 'John Waite' (1851) *Census return for Greengates, Shipley, Bradford*. Public record office PRO HO107/2312 folio 450, pg. 9, schedule 43. Available at <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (1851) (Accessed 30 March 2020).
11. 'Jane Waite' (1852) *England and Wales Civil Registration Death Index. District: Leeds Year: 1852 Qtr:Oct-Nov-Dec Vol: 9b Pg: 217*. (1852) Available at <https://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed 13 April 2020)
12. 'Jane Waite' (1852) *Leeds, England, Beckett Street Cemetery, 1845-1987. Burials Anglican Ref LC/CEM(B)1/1, numbers 1-18747, 1845-1862* (1852) Available at <https://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed 13 April 2020)
13. 'John Waite and Ann Shipley' (1854)
Certified entry recording marriage on the Civil Registration Index, District: Leeds Qtr: Jan-Feb-Mar Year: 1854 Vol: 9b Pg.: 363. (1854) Available at <https://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed 30 March 2020).
14. 'John Waite and Ann Shipley' (1854) *West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1813-1935* West Yorkshire Archive Service; Leeds, Yorkshire, England; Yorkshire Parish Records; Reference Number: RDP68/5/44 (1854) Available at <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed 30 March 2020)
15. 'Mary Waite' (1855) *England and Wales Civil Registration Birth Index, 1837-1915. District: Leeds Year: 1855 Qtr: Jan-Feb-Mar Vol: 9b Pg.: 357* (1855) Available at <https://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed 12 April 2020)
16. 'Ann Waite' (1859) *England and Wales Civil Registration death Index, 1837-1915. District: Hunslet Year 1859 Qtr: Oct-Nov-Dec Vol: 9b Pg.: 130* (1859) Available at <https://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed 12 April 2020)
17. 'Ann Waite' (1859) *West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Deaths and Burials, 1813-1985. West Yorkshire Archive Service; Wakefield, Yorkshire, England; New Reference Number: RDP14/32* (1859) Available at <https://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed 13 April 2020)
18. 'John Waite' (1861) *Census return for 3 Old Peacock, Beeston Bramley, Leeds*. Public Record Office: PRO RG9/3361 folio 81, pg. 10, schedule 50. (1861). Available at <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (1861) (Accessed 30 March 2020).
19. 'John Waite' (1871) *Census return for 16 Shaw Street, East Ward, Leeds, Yorkshire*. Public Record Office: PRO RG10/4546, folio 27, pg 84., schedule 145. (1871) Available at <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (1861) (Accessed 30 March 2020).
20. 'Shaw Street' (1890) *Old Ordinance Survey Maps, Leeds (SE) 1890 The Godfrey edition. Yorkshire Sheet 218.06*. Available at <https://www.alangodfreymaps.co.uk> (Accessed personal copy of map 13/04/2020)

21. 'Mary Waite' (1872) England and Wales Civil Registration, Death Index 1837-1915. Year: 1872 District: Leeds Qtr.: Apr-May-Jun Vol:9b Pg.:272 (1872) Available at <https://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed 13 April 2020)
22. 'Mary Waite' (1872) Leeds, England, Beckett Street Cemetery, 1845-1987. Burials, Anglicans ref LC/CEM(B)1/2, numbers 18748-38168, 1862-1874. (1872) Available at <https://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed 13 April 2020)
23. 'John Waite' (1881) 'John Waite' Census return for Leeds Union Workhouse Becket Street, Leeds, North Leeds. PublicRecordOffice:PRORG11/4524 folio: 106, Pg., 18, Line 8. Available at <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (1881) (Accessed 30 March 2020).
24. 'John Waite' (1888).
CertifiedentryrecordingdeathontheCivilRegistrationIndex,1888.District: Leeds Qtr: Jul-Aug-Sep Vol: 9b Pg:259 (1888) Available:
<https://www.ancestry.co.uk>(Accessed 30 March 2020).
25. 'John Waite' (1888) Leeds, England, Beckett Street Cemetery,1845-1987. Burials Anglican RefLC/CEM(B)1/4 Numbers 58081-78000, 1887-1900. (1888) Available at <https://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed 30 March 2020)