

Mary Walton

(abt 1808-1891)

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Before 1841 Mary's life was a bit of a mystery. She was born around 1808 in East Keswick, between Harewood and Bardsey in Yorkshire^{1,2,3,4,5}. It has not been possible to identify her maiden name or trace her marriage. However, in the 1841 census she was shown as living with Thomas Walton, an agricultural labourer, who was shown more reliably as her husband in the 1851 census^{1,2}.

In 1841 Mary and Thomas were living in Wike, near Bardsey, Yorkshire¹ next door to Thomas' father, William¹², also an agricultural labourer, and mother, Mary Walton¹², along with Thomas' brother, Peter Walton. Thomas and wife, Mary, had no children shown on the census¹.

In 1851 Thomas and Mary were living at a quarry in Bilton, near Harrogate². Thomas was listed as the proprietor of the quarry. They still had no children, but living in the house with them was a 5year old girl, Mary Firth, who they had adopted², perhaps because they had no children of their own. There was also a lodger in the house who was a 'stone getter'² and who most likely worked in the quarry alongside Thomas.

In 1857 Thomas, Mary's husband died and was buried on 8th January 1857 at All Hallow's Church in Bardsey¹³. His residence was shown on the burial record as Scarcroft, another small village in the area. Following his death, it was clear that Mary had to earn her own living and, indeed she was shown doing just that in the 1861 census³. It is not clear what happened to their adopted daughter, Mary Firth, during this time.

Mary was working as a housekeeper in Bradford in 1861³. By now she was aged 53 and was working for an unmarried linen draper and his two assistants, and was working for them, along with a second servant, living in his house at 53, Kirkgate, Bradford³.

By 1871 Mary Walton was reunited with Mary Firth who was aged 26 and working as a tayloress (sic)⁴. They were living together at 18 Hillside Street, in North Leeds. Mary was earning her living as a charwoman. Mary H. Firth was listed in the census as her niece⁴, but it has not been possible to track down their relationship so it may just have been the term she used to describe her adopted daughter.

<https://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed 21 April 2020)

4. 'Mary Walton' (1871) *Census return for 18, Hillside Street, Leeds, North Leeds. Public Record Office PRO RG10/4557, folio: 124, pg.: 19* (1871) Available at <https://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed 21 April 2020)
5. 'Mary Walton' (1881) *Census return for Leeds Union Workhouse, Becket Street, Leeds, North Leeds. Public Record Office PRO RG11/4524, folio: 106, pg.: 18* (1881) Available at <https://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed 21 April 2020)
6. 'Mary Walton' (1891) *Census return for 18 Hillside Street, Leeds, North Leeds. Public Record Office PRO RG12/3695, folio: 81, pg.: 25* (1881) Available at <https://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed 21 April 2020)
7. 'Old ordinance Survey Maps'. Leeds (NE) 1890.' *The Godfrey Coloured Edition. Yorkshire Sheet 218.02. Published by Alan Godfrey Maps. Personal copy.* Available from <https://www.alangodfreymaps.co.uk> Accessed 22 April 2020
8. 'Hill side Street looking towards Hill Street, nos 6-14' (1958) *Subject ID: 2003328_78541202 Location: Burmantofts Year 1958.* Available at <https://www.leodis.net> Accessed 22 April 2020
9. 'Hill Side Street at the junction with Lincoln Field Row showing numbers 19-25' (1958) *Subject ID 2003327_73963565 Location: Burmantofts Year 1958.* Available at <https://www.leodis.net> Accessed 22 April 2020
10. 'Mary Walton' (1891) *Certified entry recording death on the Civil Registration Index, December 1891.* Available at <https://www.ancestry.co.uk> Accessed 21 April 2020
11. 'Mary Walton' (1891) *Leeds, England, Beckett Street Cemetery, 1845-1987. Burials, Nonconformists Ref LC/CEM(B)/1/9, Numbers 38801-58640, 1889-1909.* (1891) Available at <https://www.ancestry.co.uk> Accessed 21 April 2020
12. 'Thomas Walton Baptism' (1810/1811) *West Yorkshire, England, Church of England baptisms marriages and burials 1512-1812. West Yorkshire Archive Service; Wakefield, Yorkshire, England; Yorkshire Parish Records; New Reference Number:RDP6/3.* Available at <https://www.ancestry.co.uk> Accessed 21 April 2020

