

More Than Oliver Twist: Biography

Name: John Elstub

B. 1815, d. 1883

Completed 25 January 2021, Dot Moss

John Elstub was born in Walton near Wakefield on 29 April 1815 (1). He was baptized on 21 May that year in St Peter's Church, Birstall. His mother was Mary and his father, Thomas, who worked as a blacksmith. John followed his father's occupation and worked as a blacksmith all his life, he married three times (see below).

On 29 August 1836, John married Ann Schofield at St Mary's Church, Whitkirk (now in East Leeds) (2). The following year, their son Joseph was born and baptized on 12 November 1837 at St Mary's (3). Their daughter Elizabeth was born on 2 April 1840 and baptized at St Peter's Church in Birstall on 15 November that year (4).

By 1841, John and Ann Elstub lived in Kirkgate in Leeds with their two children (5). A further daughter, Sarah Ann was born on 17 March 1846 and baptized on 1 June that year at St Peter's, Birstall (6). They lived on Ellerby Lane, Leeds, at that time. John's first wife, Ann, died in 1848 (7). She was buried at St Mary's Church, Whitkirk, on 12 January 1848 (8).

The same year, John Elstub remarried in Leeds (9). His second wife was Elizabeth Hardy, a single woman whose father was a horse doctor and farmer. The couple married on 7 September 1848 at St Phillip's Church, Leeds (10). John Elstub was living on Cavalier Hill, Leeds at the time.

By the 1851 census, Elizabeth, John and the three children from John's first marriage lived in the Raffles houses, Beeston, Holbeck (11). Five years later, John's second wife Elizabeth (known as Betty) died (12). She was buried on 3 January 1856, in Birstall (13). Shortly after her death, John's two older children married, Joseph in 1858 (14) and Elizabeth in 1860 (15).

In 1863 John Elstub married for the third time (16). His marriage to Harriet Waring, a widow, took place at St Peter's Church, Leeds, on 19 October that year (17). In 1871 They lived at 10 Brown Cow Lane in South East Leeds (18).

In the 1881 census, John, aged 66, had had to move into Leeds Union Workhouse (19). He was still married, described in the record as a former blacksmith, but clearly not well enough to work. He died in 1883 (20) and was buried from the Union Infirmary in Beckett Street Cemetery on 4 April 1883 (21).

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