

More Than Oliver Twist: Biography

Name: Ellen Eyre

According to her 1881 census return, Ellen was born in Ireland in 1852. Her occupation was Domestic Servant – Dairymaid and the record claimed she was aged 29 and married (1). I could find no other convincing records related to her biography. It is possible she entered the workhouse because of pregnancy but I could find no evidence she had had a child. Unmarried pregnant women often had no alternative but to enter the workhouse, being disowned by their families (2).

References

1. 'Ellen Eyre' (1881) *Census return for Leeds Union Workhouse, Leeds, North Leeds subdistrict, Yorkshire*. Public Record Office: PRO RG11/4524, folio 100, p. 5 (1881). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 26 January 2021).
2. Higginbotham, Peter (2021) *Entering and Leaving the Workhouse*. Available at www.workhouses.org.uk. (Accessed 1 February 2021)