

More Than Oliver Twist: Biography

Name: Richard Farrington

B. 1814, d. 1883

Author: Dot Moss

Richard Farrington was born in 1814 in Leeds, Yorkshire (1). On 5 February 1837 he married Mary Senior from Dewsbury at St Stephen's Church, Kirkstall, Yorkshire (2).

They had seven children. Their first son, James was born in 1837 (3). Their first daughter, Harriet, in 1839 (4). Charles was born in 1846 (5), George, in 1848 (6) Thomas in 1850 (7), Ellen in 1857 (8) and Carter in 1860 (9). Thomas and Carter were baptized together in 1870 (10) (11).

Richard Farrington's 1851 Census Return shows the family lived at Outgang Lane, Bramley, Leeds (12). By that time, Richard worked as a labourer in an Iron Works. He continued to do so all his working life. He had previously worked as a Miller (13) and a Carpenter (14). By 1861, Richard and his family lived at Hepton Hall's Houses, still in Kirkstall (15).

In the 1871 census return, Richard is absent from the family. Mary Farrington, his wife, is head of the household, living with the children Thomas, Ellen and Carter at Springfield Place, Kirkstall (16). Whether Richard was working away, was injured or ill, or they had separated is not known. Their first son, James, died at the age of 34 in 1871 (17).

By 1881, Richard Farrington had been admitted to Leeds Workhouse at the age of 67 (18). His wife Mary lived with the children Harriet, Ellen, and Carter at 20 Sandford Place, Kirkstall (19).

Richard Farrington died in 1883 (20). He was buried on 27 August 1883 at St Stephen's Church, Kirkstall (21). The place of burial implies he was buried from the family home. Mary Farrington, his widow, died six years later, in 1889 (22)

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