

More Than Oliver Twist: Biography

Name: Margaret Finch

B. 1833, d. 1892

Author: Dot Moss

Margaret Finch was baptized at St John's Church, Preston, Lancashire, on 5 May 1833(1). According to the baptism record, she was born the same year. Her parents were William and Mary Finch.

In 1841, a Margaret Finch was recorded as living at Clare Street, St Ann, Nottinghamshire. She lived with her parents William Finch (a tailor) and Mary Finch, and a younger sibling, William aged 1 (2). The record states they were born in Nottinghamshire, which would be inaccurate if this was the same Margaret. However, the family names and occupation tie in.

By 1861, the family live at 60 Boynton Street, North Leeds (3). Margaret is recorded as 25, and a tailoress. She lived with her parents, William (a tailor) and Mary but there is no sign of a sibling.

In 1865, Margaret's mother, Mary Finch, died and was buried from 60 Boynton Street on 20 July that year in Beckett Street Cemetery, Leeds (4).

In 1871 Margaret lived with her widowed father, William, at 47 Boynton Street. Father and daughter both worked in tailoring (5).

Margaret's father died in 1875 (6). He was buried from Leeds Workhouse on 22 June 1875 in Beckett Street Cemetery (7). Whether his daughter Margaret had moved to the workhouse with him when he became ill, is not known. But in 1881 Margaret is an inmate there, recorded as a cardwinder in a Flax Mill, unmarried and born in Preston, Lancashire (8).

By the 1891 census, Margaret, aged 57, has become a sick inmate in Leeds Union Infirmary, attached to the Workhouse (9). She died there a year later (10) and was buried in Beckett Street Cemetery on 4 July 1892 (11).

References

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