

More Than Oliver Twist: Biography

Name: Caroline Fisher

Caroline Fisher B. 1849, d. 1916

George Albert Fisher B. 1880, d. 1881 (her son)- resident workhouse, 1881

Florrie Fisher B. 1876, d. NK (her daughter)- resident Union Infirmary 1881

Caroline Fisher was born in about 1849 (1) and baptized in Coalville, Leicestershire on 25 December 1850 (2). Her parents were Joseph and Ann Fisher. When she was 2, Caroline lived with her parents and siblings, George, and William, in Packington, Measham, Derbyshire (3). Her father was a coal miner, and later became a 'Viewer' (a Mine Manager (4, 5)). In 1854, Caroline's mother Ann died (6). Her father remarried and in 1861 the family lived at the Grocer's Shop in Swannington, Leicestershire (7) Caroline was 12 by this time and there was a younger sibling, Julia aged 9. Caroline's stepmother was called Harriet.

By 1871 Caroline Fisher had moved north to Leeds and worked as a cook in the Kempe family home on Brunswick Terrace (8). In 1876, Caroline has a baby girl called Florrie Fisher (9). The birth was registered in Wharfedale, West Riding and the place of birth Ilkley, several miles north of Leeds (10). Caroline gave birth to George Albert Fisher in 1880 whilst living in Quarry Hill, Leeds (11). George was baptized at St Mary's Church Leeds on 1 September 1880 (12). By the April of 1881, Caroline, and George (4 months old) were inmates of the workhouse (13,14) and Caroline's daughter Florrie, aged 5, was an inmate of the Leeds Union Infirmary (15). George died that year (16). He was buried from his Caroline's home in Marsh Lane on 6 November 1881 (17).

In 1885 Caroline married Thomas Robinson in Leeds (18). The marriage ceremony took place on 3 August 1885 at St Matthias Church, Burley, Leeds (19). Thomas was a widower who worked as a painter and decorator. Their first child was born in the Spring of that year and was registered in Leeds as Annie Fisher Robinson (20). On 18 October 1885, a month after her parents wedding, she was baptized as Annie Robinson (21).

By 1891, the family lived at 30 Matthias Place, Headingley with Burley, Kirkstall, Leeds (22). Living there were Isabella and Harry Robinson, children from Thomas's earlier marriage (23). Caroline's daughter Florrie, 15, worked as a tailoress. Annie was a scholar and two more children had been born. In the 1891 census Fred was 4 and Arthur was 5 months. By 1901 the family had moved to Fountain Street, West Leeds. Their daughter, Annie, was a pupil teacher at a school (24).

It is possible that in the first decade of the 20th Century, Caroline, her husband, and her daughter Florrie, travelled to the United States. This is argued by a family tree on ancestry (25). There is a 1910 US Federal Census Return for Monroe, New York in the name of Caroline Robinson (26). An incoming passenger list from New York to Liverpool in 1813 indicates her return to England. This lists a Caroline Robinson, travelling with Thos' Robinson, and Flora Robinson (27). However, Thomas is described as a merchant rather than a painter and decorator, and Florrie was registered by birth with that name, not as Flora, so it is not certain that these are the same people.

Caroline died in the Autumn of 1916 (28), a few months after her husband Thomas, who died in the Spring of that year (29).

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