

More Than Oliver Twist: Biography

Name: James Mawson

B. 1842, d. 1894

Written by Dorothy Moss

James Mawson was born on 10 March 1842 in Leeds (1) (2). His parents were William Mawson and Sarah Mason, who had married in 1834 at St Peter's Church, Leeds (3). William was a wool sorter.

In 1851, James, aged 10, was at school (4). He lived with his parents and two sisters, Elizabeth and Harriet at 29 Paley's Buildings, West Leeds. A further sister, Sarah Jane, was born later in 1851 (5). The family home was shared with James' grandparents, Henry and Mary Mawson and two uncles, Daniel and James (6).

James' father, William Mawson, died between 1851 and 1861. His wife Sarah was recorded as a widow in the 1861 census (7). Elizabeth (8), Sarah Jane (9) and James were baptized in 1855, James was baptized at the age of 13 on 14 March 1855 (10).

In the 1861 census return, James worked as a cloth dresser and lived at 10 Saville Street, West Leeds, with his mother Sarah and grandfather Henry, both of whom had been widowed (11). Harriet had married in 1858 (12) but Elizabeth and Sarah Jane were still at home. Elizabeth married in 1866 (13), Sarah Jane in 1875 (14) but James never married.

By 1871 James lived at the Model Lodging House in North Leeds, he worked as a cloth dresser (15). In 1881 he was an inmate at Leeds Workhouse, described as a Hawker (a far less secure occupation) (16). By 1891, James was working again as a cloth finisher and lived at the School Street lodging house in West Leeds (17).

James died in 1894 (18) and was buried on 8 December that year in the Beckett Street cemetery Leeds (grave 11745) (19). He had died at the Union Infirmary aged 52 having worked as a Watchman in his last years.

References

1. 'James Mawson' (1842). *Certified entry recording birth on the Civil Registration Index, Jan-Feb-March 1842*. Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 28 June 2021).
2. 'James Mawson' (1842) Birth of James Mawson, 10 March 1842, St Paul's Church, Leeds, Yorkshire, England, West Yorkshire, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1910 (1842). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 29 June 2021).
3. 'William Mawson and Sarah Mason' (1834) Marriage of William Mawson and Sarah Mason, 23 August 1834, St Peter's Church, Leeds, Yorkshire, England, West Yorkshire, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1813-1935 (1834). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 29 June 2021).
4. 'James Mawson' (1851) *Census return 29 Paley Buildings, Leeds, West Leeds subdistrict, Yorkshire*. Public Record Office: HO107/2321, folio 847p. 31 (1851). Available at:

- <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 28 June 2021).
5. 'Sarah Jane Mawson' (1855) Baptism of Sarah Jane Mawson, 4 March 1855, St Paul's Church, Leeds, Yorkshire, England, West Yorkshire, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1910 (1855). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 29 June 2021).
 6. 'James Mawson' (1851) *Census return 29 Paley Buildings, Leeds, West Leeds subdistrict, Yorkshire*. Public Record Office: HO107/2321, folio 847p. 31 (1851). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 28 June 2021).
 7. 'James Mawson' (1861) *Census return 10 Saville Street, Leeds, West Leeds subdistrict, Yorkshire*. Public Record Office: RG9/3395, folio 74, p. 4 (1861). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 28 June 2021).
 8. 'Elizabeth Mawson' (1855) Baptism of Elizabeth Mawson, 4 March 1855, St Paul's Church, Leeds, Yorkshire, England, West Yorkshire, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1910 (1855). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 29 June 2021).
 9. 'Sarah Jane Mawson' (1855) Baptism of Sarah Jane Mawson, 4 March 1855, St Paul's Church, Leeds, Yorkshire, England, West Yorkshire, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1910 (1855). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 29 June 2021).
 10. 'James Mawson' (1855) Baptism of James Mawson, 14 March 1855, St Paul's Church, Leeds, Yorkshire, England, West Yorkshire, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1910 (1855). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 29 June 2021).
 11. 'James Mawson' (1861) *Census return 10 Saville Street, Leeds, West Leeds subdistrict, Yorkshire*. Public Record Office: RG9/3395, folio 74, p. 4 (1861). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 28 June 2021).
 12. 'Harriet Mawson and James Alonzo Spence' (1858) Marriage of Harriet Mawson and James Alonzo Spence, 14 November 1858, St Peter's Church, Leeds, Yorkshire, England, West Yorkshire, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1813-1935 (1858). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 1 July 2021).
 13. 'Elizabeth Mawson and John Wood' (1866) Marriage of Elizabeth Mawson and John Wood, 2 April 1866, St Matthias, Burley, Leeds, Yorkshire, England, West Yorkshire, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1813-1935 (1866). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 29 June 2021).
 14. 'Sarah Jane Mawson and Thomas Steel' (1875) Marriage of Sarah Jane Mawson and Thomas Steel, 23 June 1875, St Barnabas Church, Heaton, Yorkshire, West Yorkshire, Church of England Marriages and Banns, 1813-1935 (1875). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 2 July 2021).
 15. 'James Mawson' (1871) *Census return for Model Lodging House, Wellington Yard, Leeds, North Leeds subdistrict, Yorkshire*. Public Record Office: RG10/4551, folio 56, p. 15 (1871). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 28 June 2021).
 16. 'James Mawson' (1881) *Census return for Leeds Union Workhouse, Leeds, North Leeds subdistrict, Yorkshire*. Public Record Office: RG11/4524, folio 103, p. 11 (1881). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 28 June 2021).
 17. 'James Mawson' (1891) *Census return for School Street Lodging House, Leeds, West Leeds subdistrict, Yorkshire*. Public Record Office: RG12/3706, folio 96, p. 20 (1891). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 28 June 2021).
 18. 'James Mawson' (1894). *Certified entry recording death on the Civil Registration Index, December 1894*. Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 29 June 2021).
 19. 'James Mawson' (1894) Burial of James Mawson, 8 December 1894, Beckett Street Cemetery, Leeds, Yorkshire, England. In the Cemetery Records, 1845-1987 (1894). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 29 June 2021).