

More Than Oliver Twist: Biography

Name: Mary McCall (McHale?)

B. 1820, d. 1886

According to her census return of 1881, Mary McCall was born in about 1820 in Ireland (1). She was an inmate in the Leeds workhouse, unmarried, aged 61 and a 'charwoman'. This may have been her occupation in the workhouse rather than her former occupation.

It was difficult to find other convincing records to cast light on Mary's McCall's life story. It is possible that her name was misspelt in the 1881 census and that her name was Mchale. If that is the case, in 1871, a single woman, named Mary Mchale, aged 50, born in Ireland in about 1821, lived with her mother Margaret, a widow, aged 89, at 6 Randall Yard, North Leeds (2). Mary worked as a dressmaker. Mary's mother Margaret died and was buried in 1873 (3). This may have led Mary to turn to the Workhouse for support.

Mary Mchale died and was buried on 21 August 1886 at Leeds Beckett Cemetery. At the time of her death, she lived at 1 Phillips Yard Leeds (4). I could find no burial record for a Mary McCall of that age.

References

1. 'Mary McCall' (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: 2 July 2021).
2. 'Mary Mchale' (1871) *Census return for 6 Randall Yard, Leeds, North Leeds subdistrict, Yorkshire*. Public Record Office: RG10/4554, folio 154, p. 17 (1871). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 5 July 2021).
3. 'Margaret Mchale' (1873) Burial of Margaret Mchale, 2 October 1873. Beckett Street Cemetery, Leeds, England. In the Cemetery Records, 1845-1987 (1873). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 5 July 2021).
4. 'Mary Mchale' (1886) Burial of Mary Mchale, 21 August 1886. Beckett Street Cemetery, Leeds, England. In the Cemetery Records, 1845-1987 (1886). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 7 July 2021).