

Richard Rowntree **(born 1812, died 1893)**

25 August 2020
Jane Collins

Richard Rowntree was born in Leyburn, North Yorkshire and baptised in Leyburn Independent Chapel on 1st November 1812; his father is also named as Richard Rowntree (1).

We do not know when or why Richard left Leyburn but in 1837 he was living in Manningham in Bradford, West Yorkshire. He married Ann Wyrell at Shipley Church in the Parish of Bradford in November 1837 (2) and his occupation was recorded as Slater. Both Richard and Ann signed the marriage register with a cross which suggests they were illiterate.

Richard and Ann moved to the town of Leeds where Richard continued to work as a Slater. Their first child, Ellen was born in August 1840 and baptised in Leeds Parish Church in May 1841(3). In the Leeds 1841census, the small family were living together in back George Street (4) but by the end of that year, Richard and Ann were struck by tragedy when baby Ellen died in December (5).

In 1851, Richard and Ann had moved to 55 Ebenezer Street (Eastgate area of the town and close to George Street). The 1851 census lists the occupants as Richard (working as a Slater) and Ann plus five "lodgers", recorded as weavers and labourers, originally from Ireland (6). As Richard is listed as the "head" of the household, it is a possibility that the Rowntree's were landlords. In 1852, their second daughter Mary was born (10). From 1853-1855, Richard is listed in trade directories as a Slater (perhaps undertaking roofing work) working from 55 Ebenezer Street (7, 8, 9).

In 1861, Richard, Ann and Mary Rowntree were living at 6 Moxon's Yard, a yard off Kirkgate, Leeds. Richard (aged 50 years) still working as a Slater, Ann (aged 40 years) and Mary (aged 8 years) a scholar (11).

The 1871 census shows that the family were now living at 4 Bewley's Yard (Kirkgate). Richard still a Slater and daughter Mary now working as a Boot Fitter (12). The 1872 White's Directory of Leeds shows Richard Rowntree plying his trade as a Slater from Dennis's Yard at No 6 Kirkgate (13). In 1873, Richard's daughter, Mary, married Gusmao Ferrario, an Italian immigrant (14). His wife, Ann, died 3 years later in July 1876 aged 55 years (15).

In 1881 Richard is listed as an inmate of Leeds Union Workhouse, occupation Slater (16). In the same year, his daughter Mary was lodging in Moxon's Yard, Leeds with husband Gusmao Ferrario and son John Baptista, and working as a Boot Top Machinist (17). Possible reasons for his admission to the Workhouse may be the loss of familial support, or potentially related to health problems. In 1881 Richard was 69 years old and to continue working as a slater/roofer he would need to be physically fit.

Richard was still an inmate of the Workhouse in 1891, but this time is listed as an "Infirm Inmate" (18). Richard died in the Workhouse Infirmary in 1893 aged 81 years and was buried in Becket Street Cemetery (19).

References

(1) 'Richard Rowntree' (1812). Baptism of Richard Rowntree, Leyburn, Yorkshire, England. Denomination: Independent. England & Wales, Non-Conformist and Non-Parochial Registers 1567-1970. Piece 3650: Leyburn (Independent) 1810-1836. Public Record Office: PRO RG4/3650 p.3. Available at: <https://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 1 July 2020)

(2) 'Richard Rowntree and Ann Wyrell' (1837). Marriage of Richard Roundtree and Ann Wyrell, 8 November 1837. Shipley Church in the Parish of Bradford, Yorkshire. West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Marriage & Banns 1813-1935. Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed 1 July 2020)

(3) 'Ellen Rowntree' (1840). Baptism of Ellen Rowntree (birth date 31 August 1840) 30 May 1841, St Peter's, Parish Church of Leeds in the County of York. West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Births & Baptisms, 1813-1910. Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed 25 August 2020)

(4) 'Richard, Ann & Ellen Rowntree (1841). Census return for Leeds Town, Leeds North Subdistrict, Yorkshire. Public Record Office: PRO HO107/1346/13, Folio 24, p.3. Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 29 June 2020).

(5) 'Ellen Rowntree' (1841). Certified entry recording death on the Civil Registration Index, December 1841. Available:
<https://www.freebmd.org.uk/cgi/information.pl?cite=pH2z7n5AO4%2BLwJ8VZB9srg&scan=1>. (Accessed 25 August 2020).

(6) Richard & Ann Rowntree' (1851). Census return for 55 Ebenezer Street, Leeds Town, Leeds North Subdistrict, Yorkshire. Public Record Office: PRO HO107/2320, Folio 149, p.27. Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 29 June 2020).

(7) 'Richard Rowntree' (1853). UK City and County Directories 1766-1946, England, Yorkshire. 1853 White's Directory and Gazetteer of Leeds. Available at:
<http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed 25 August 2020)

(8) 'Richard Rowntree' (1854). UK City and County Directories 1766-1946, England, Yorkshire. 1854 Directory of Leeds. Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed 25 August 2020)

(9) 'Richard Rowntree' (1855). UK City and County Directories 1766-1946, England, Yorkshire. 1855 Yorkshire Royal National Commercial Directory, Leeds &c, page 293. Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed 25 August 2020)

(10) 'Mary Rowntree' (1852). Certified entry recording birth on the Civil Registration Birth Index July 1852. Registration District: Leeds, Yorkshire West Riding; Volume 9b, Page 565. Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed 25 August 2020)

(11) 'Richard, Ann and Mary Rowntree' (1861) Census return for 6 Moxon's Yard, Leeds Town, Leeds North Subdistrict, Yorkshire. Public Record Office: PRO RG9/3377, Folio 31, p.1. Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 29 June 2020).

(12) 'Richard, Ann and Mary Rowntree' (1871) Census return for 4 Bewley's Yard (Kirkgate), Leeds Town, Leeds South East Subdistrict, Yorkshire. Public Record Office: PRO RG10/4544, Folio 10, p.13. Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 29 June 2020).

(13) 'Richard Rowntree' (1872). UK City and County Directories 1766-1946, England, Yorkshire. 1872 White's Directory of Leeds. Leeds Street Directory. Available at:
<http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed 25 August 2020)

(14) 'Mary Rowntree & Gusmao Ferrario' (1873). Marriage of Mary Rowntree and Gusmao Ferrario, October 1873. Civil Registration Marriage Index Oct-Dec 1873, Registration District Leeds, Yorkshire West Riding. Volume 9b, Page 867. Available at:
<http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed 25 August 2020)

(15) 'Ann Rowntree' (1876). Certified entry recording death on the Civil Registration Death Index. Registration District Leeds, Yorkshire West Riding, Volume 9b, Page 262. . Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed 25 August 2020)

(16) '**Richard Rowntree** (1881) Census return for Leeds Union Workhouse, Becket Street, Leeds, North Leeds Subdistrict, Yorkshire. Public Record Office: PRO RG11/4524, folio 104, p.14 (1881). Available at: <https://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 29 June 2020)

(17) **‘Gusmeo, Mary & ‘John B Ferrario’** (1881) Census return for 4 Moxon Yard, Leeds. North Leeds Sub registration district, Yorkshire. Public Record Office: PRO RG11/4516, Folio 23, Page 21. Available at: <https://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 25 August 2020)

(18) : **‘Richard Rowntree** (1891) Census return for Leeds Union Workhouse, Becket Street, Leeds, North Leeds Subdistrict, Yorkshire. Public Record Office: PRO RG12/3696, folio 115, p.2 (1891). Available at: <https://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 1 July 2020)

(19) **‘Richard Rowntree** (1893). Burial of Richard Rowntree, 21 October 1893. Beckett Street Cemetery, Leeds; Burials – Anglicans. Leeds Beckett Street Cemetery, 1845-1987. Ref LC/CEM (B)/1/4, Numbers 58081-78000, 1887-1900. Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed 25 August 2020)