

Sarah Jane Ruddy (née Stenson)

(b. 1852 – d.1882)

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Jane Collins

Note: There is a separate biography for Sarah Jane's daughter, Ellen Ruddy [1877-1882] in the Leeds Union Infirmary collection of biographies in this series.

Sarah Jane Stenson was born in the Hunslet district of Leeds in December 1852 (1) and baptised in Holbeck Church on 6 March 1853(2). Her parents were Samuel and Hannah Stenson (nee Tyas), who lived in Holbeck. Samuel Stenson signed his name in the baptism register but Hannah made her mark with an X, suggesting she was illiterate. Samuel is recorded on the baptism record as a Labourer. The two were married in March 1850 at Leeds Parish Church - Hannah was 22 and Samuel 41 years old. There are no records of Samuel and Hannah from 1851 onwards. It is possible that Samuel served in the army, as in the 1851 census a Samuel Stenson is recorded as a Chelsea Pensioner living in Holbeck. Hannah Stenson was recorded on the 1851 census as being a patient in Leeds General Infirmary – her illness was not stated.

On 4th December 1880, Sarah Jane (aged 29 years) married Martin Ruddy (22 years) at the Parish Church of St Andrew, Leeds (3). Both were illiterate and made their mark with an X. At the time of their marriage, they were living at the same address in Sale Street (4). Their marriage was short-lived because four months later in April 1881, Sarah Jane was an inmate of Leeds Union Workhouse and Martin a prisoner in HMP Armley (5, 6). In January 1881, Martin Ruddy was sentenced to 15 months hard labour for “simple larceny” due to his guilty plea and a previous criminal record of a conviction for felony.

On the 1881 census the occupation of Sarah Jane is recorded as a Flax Spinner and Martin as a Dyers Labourer.

Sarah Jane Ruddy died in 1882 aged 30 years (7) and on 17 December 1882 she was buried in Beckett Street Cemetery (8). Her address is recorded as Back Nile Street, Leeds so

perhaps she had been discharged from the Workhouse. Martin Ruddy survived Sarah Jane, marrying again and dying in 1913. He is also buried in Beckett Street Cemetery.

References

- (1) 'Sarah Jane Stenson' (1852). Certified entry recording birth on the Civil Registration Birth Index, December 1852. Available:
<https://www.freebmd.org.uk/cgi/information.pl?cite=qBM0T2OCRyttUhxvrNhdnw&scan=1>
(Accessed: 7 May 2020)
- (2) 'Sarah Jane Stenson' (1853). Baptism of Sarah Jane Stenson, 6 March 1853. Holbeck Church in the Parish of Leeds. West Yorkshire Church of England Births & Baptisms 1813-1910. Available at: <https://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 7 May 2020)
- (3) 'Sarah Jane Stenson' (1880). Certified entry recording marriage on the Civil Registration Index, December 1880. Available:
<https://www.freebmd.org.uk/cgi/information.pl?cite=8M3KLunGSLL8aIn469GFFw&scan=1>
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- (4) 'Sarah Jane Stenson and Martin Ruddy' (1880). Marriage of Sarah Jane Stenson and Martin Ruddy, 4 December 1880. Parish Church in the Parish of St Andrew, Leeds. West Yorkshire Church of England Marriage & Banns 1813-1935. Yorkshire Parish Records Ref No RDP62/20/9. Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed 10 May 2020)
- (5) '**Sarah Jane Ruddy**' (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: 7 May 2020)
- (6) '**Martin Ruddy**' (1881) Census return for "Her Majesty's Prison" Armley, Nr Leeds, Yorkshire. Public Record Office: PRO RG11/4509, folio 105, p.10 (1881). Available at: <https://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 13 May 2020)
- (7) Sarah Jane Ruddy (1882). Certified entry recording death on the Civil Registration Index, December 1882. Available:
<https://www.freebmd.org.uk/cgi/information.pl?cite=wflQ%2F9RiUUyET9GTTeBlhA&scan=1>
(Accessed 10 May 2020)
- (8) 'Sarah Jane Ruddy' (1882). Burial of Sarah Jane Ruddy 17 December 1882. Beckett Street Cemetery, Leeds; Burials – Nonconformist. Leeds Beckett Street Cemetery, 1845-1987. Ref LC/CEM (B)/1/8, Numbers 18750-38800, 1873-1889. Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed 10 May 2020)

