

## Jeremiah Shay

B. 1817, D. 1882

Jeremiah Shay was a 64-year-old inmate in the Leeds Union Workhouse on the night of the 1881 Census. He was a married man, born in Ireland, and had worked as a groom (1).

Not much is known about Jeremiah's early life. According to the Shay family tree on Ancestry, in 1853 he was in York, where he married Mary Bell in the church of St Mary, Castlegate. In 1861, Jeremiah and Mary were living in Fulford, York, with 2 children, Richard, aged 6, and John, aged 3. Sadly, Mary died in 1867, her death was registered in the East Riding of Yorkshire.

In 1871, Jeremiah had moved to Leeds and was lodging in Spring Yard, an area with a large Irish population. He was still working as a groom, and had 2 surviving children with him, George, 9, and Elizabeth, 6, both born in York. Young George was described as 'an idiot from birth'.

Jeremiah married again, in 1873, in Leeds, to an Irish lady, Catherine Trevlin.

Why Jeremiah ended up in the Workhouse in 1881 is unknown. He died in January the following year and was buried in the non-Conformist section of the Beckett St Cemetery on 26 January. Catherine and her step-daughter Elizabeth were still living in Spring Yard at that time. By 1891, Catherine was an inmate in the Imbecile ward of the Union Infirmary and died later that year, joining her husband in Beckett St Cemetery on 30 December 1891.

### Reference list:

1. 'Jeremiah Shay' (1881) Census return for Leeds Union Workhouse, Beckett St, Leeds, RG11/4524, f105, p. 16 on [www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)
2. 'Jeremiah Shay' (various) Family tree OT Shay on Ancestry.
3. 'Jeremiah Shay' (1882) Entry of burial 26 January 1882 in the Non-Conformist section, Beckett St Cemetery, from Union Infirmary, aged 62.