

Elizabeth Tacey

(B.1838? D. 1891)

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In 1881, Elizabeth Tacey, aged 43, was an inmate in the Leeds Union Workhouse **(2)**. She was stated to be unmarried, born in Doncaster and worked as a 'flax mill hand'.

No baptism has been found for Elizabeth and details of her parents are unknown. However, in the 1841 census an Elizabeth Tasey, aged 5, was living in South Kirkby, South Yorkshire with John Pearson, aged 70 and his wife Elizabeth, aged 65 **(1)**. It is likely that this was the Elizabeth in question and perhaps John and Elizabeth were her grandparents, although no link has been found. (South Kirkby is about 10 miles from Doncaster.)

No more references have been found to Elizabeth until the 1881 census **(2)** when she was in the workhouse in Leeds. It seems that she had been employed in one of the local flax mills and perhaps work was becoming harder to find.

In the 1891 census **(3)**, Elizabeth was found to be a patient in the District General infirmary, Leeds. She was described as a 'widow' aged 60, but these details were not correct. Her place of birth was given as 'South Helmsall' (*Elmsall*) which ties in with where she was living at the time of the 1841 census. (South Elmsall is very near to South Kirkby.) Elizabeth's occupation was described as a 'hawker' which meant that she had been trying to support herself by selling items door to door or in the street.

Elizabeth died in the workhouse not long after the 1891 census was taken and was buried in the consecrated section of Beckett Street Cemetery on June 3rd, 1891**(4), (5)**. She shared her grave with three other adults and thirteen young children. (*Grave number 11779*)

Reference list:

(1) 'Elizabeth Tasey' (1841) Census return for Pontefract sub-district, Ackworth. Public Record Office: PRO HO107/1310/2, folio 5, p.46 (1841). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 07 April 2022).

(2) 'Elizabeth Tacey' (1881) Census return for Leeds Union Workhouse sub-district, North Leeds. Public Record Office: PRO RG11/4524, folio 106, p. 17(1881). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 07 April 2022).

(3) 'Elizabeth Tacey' (1891) Census return for Leeds General Infirmary sub-district, West Leeds. Public Record Office: PRO RG12/3708, folio 137, p. 13 (1891). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 07 April 2022).

(4) 'Elizabeth Tacey' (1891). Certified entry recording death on the Civil Registration Index, 2nd quarter 1891 Leeds Volume 9b Page 461 Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 07 April 2022).

(5) 'Burial of Elizabeth Tacey' 3 June 1891 Leeds, Beckett Street Cemetery (1845 –1987) Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed: 07 April 2022).