

Ann Sickling née Fawcett

(b. 1846 d. 1909)

Linda Campbell

Ann Sickling was born Ann Fawcett in York on 16th August 1846 (1). She was the daughter of Thomas Fawcett and Margaret Lambert, who in 1844 at Ripon Cathedral (2). At the time of their marriage, Margaret was aged 19, and resident in Ripon, and her spouse was aged 25. Thomas was a waterman by occupation, resident in Castleford.

The 1851 census shows Ann aged 4 in Allhallowgate, Ripon in a household of 12 people. The head of this household is John Lambert, aged 50, with his wife Ann, aged 55 (3). John Lambert is a maltster, as is one of his sons. Ann is recorded as being daughter to the head but is almost certainly his granddaughter. Also in the household are Ann's mother Margaret, (who is recorded as being married although her husband Thomas is not resident with the family), and Margaret's other children - Jane, aged 7, John, aged 2, and Mary aged 1. Three lodgers from Ireland, all hawkers, are also boarding with the family.

Margaret and Thomas had three further children – twins Robert and William in 1855, and Matthew in 1857 (4,5). Sadly, Margaret died shortly after the birth of Matthew, and she was buried at Ripon Cathedral on 18th December 1857, the day on which Matthew's baptism also took place (6).

Thomas then married Caroline Bater, a spinster of 22 years, in February 1860 (7). Before her marriage, Caroline had given birth to a child named Emma in 1859, and another daughter, Margaret was born in 1861 (8,9). In the 1861 census, Thomas and Caroline are living in Allhallowgate, Ripon with their five youngest children – Mary, Robert and William, from Thomas's first marriage, and the recent arrivals, Emma and Margaret. Thomas's occupation is now given as labourer (10).

In 1861, Ann, aged 15, is recorded as a visitor to her grandfather John Lambert, who is the head of his household in North Street, Ripon (11). Other occupants are John's wife, Ann, age 66, their daughter Ann Cryer (née Lambert), a soldier's wife, and her three children recorded as grandchildren to the head. Ann's brother, John, is to be found at this time as a boarder at Jepson's Hospital, Water Skellgate, Ripon (12). This institution was endowed in the late 17th century by Zacharias Jepson, a wealthy apothecary who was a native of Ripon, to provide lodgings and schooling for orphan boys (13). It appears from this that Thomas may have been unable to maintain all his

children, and looked to family and others for support. By the time of the 1871 census, Thomas, Caroline and the younger children of the family had relocated to Leeds (39).

Ann married Henry Sickling in Sharow, a village close to Ripon on 21st May 1866 (14). The banns for the marriage were read on 6th May 1866. Henry is described as a bachelor, aged 22, a labourer from the parish of Sharow. Ann is described as a spinster resident in Ripon. The marriage ceremony was performed by J.R. Williams, the official minister at the district chapel, and the witnesses were John Wrights and Mary Wrights. All parties signed the marriage register an 'x', possibly with the exception of Ann whose 'x' was scored through. Ann's father is noted as Thomas Fawcett and his occupation by then was a maltster.

No record for either Ann Sickling or Henry Sickling has been located in the 1871 census, and no children appear to have been born until 1877 when their daughter Margaret was born followed by a son, John Thomas in 1878 (21,22). Henry is recorded as a gardener on John's baptismal record. The following year, Henry died at the age of 36, and was buried in Sharow on 27th July 1879 (15, 16). It would seem that Ann fell upon hard times after the death of her husband. In January 1880 it was logged in the Ripon Board of Guardians records that Ann had been awarded 6 shillings per week for 2 weeks, and then 6 shillings per week for a further 12 weeks, the reason given for this relief that she was partially not able to maintain herself and her family (17). On 25th March 1880, a further record shows that Ann was allocated 3 shillings per week for 2 weeks (18). Again, on 4th September 1880, she was seen by the Board of Guardians and was given a medical order for sickness of a child (19). A further entry made in March 1881 stated that Ann had been residing in Bondgate, Ripon the home of John Cryer, her cousin. This entry stated that Ann was 'wholly pregnant' and an order was made to enter the Ripon Union Workhouse on Allhallowgate, Ripon (20).

Ann was admitted to the Workhouse on 16th March 1881 with her children Margaret and John, with Ann describing herself as a charwoman and widow (23). On 6th April 1881 Ann gave birth to a girl in the Workhouse. The baby was baptised Sarah Steel Sickling at Holy Trinity Church Ripon on 17th April 1881 (24).

Ann and her three children were discharged from the workhouse by their own notice and with satisfactory conduct on 28th April 1881 (25). Some 3 months later, in July 1881, baby Sarah died (26). Ann appeared once again before the Board of Guardians, this time because she was unable to afford to bury her

baby, and was applying for the cost of a coffin (27). Sarah Steel Sickling was buried on 28th July 1881 at Ripon Cathedral (28).

No record of Ann could be found in the census of 1891, but her daughter Margaret, now 16, was living with her uncle John Cryer and his family in Ripon (29). The census recorded Margaret as 'employed' but no occupation is given. Two years later, a report in The York Herald on 28th April 1893 entitled "*SINGULAR CHARGE OF CHILD DESERTION*" shows that Ann was back in Ripon, appearing at the proceedings of Ripon City Court (30).

She was described as Ann Sickling of Ripon, a widow, and was charged with deserting her child Margaret Sickling, who had become chargeable to the common fund of the Ripon Union. The report goes on:

"Mr Gowland appeared on behalf of the Guardians and stated that 8 years prior, the prisoner left Ripon with 2 children without giving notice to anyone. She left a third child in the charge of John Cryer of 23a North Street, Ripon. Cryer kept the child until 23rd May 1889 when he applied to the Board of Guardians for relief for the child, stating that she had been deserted by her mother. The Guardians allowed her 3s per week and this continued until 23rd May 1891 when the child went into service in Ripon. The Guardians had paid altogether £20 in relief and £3 for outfit. The Relieving Officer, (Mr J. W. Umpleby), gave evidence in support of the charge and said he first heard of the prisoner's return to the town on Sunday night. Margaret Sickling, a respectably dressed girl, who stated that she was 16 years old and did not remember her father. She said that her mother had not insulted her since she came back but had asked her for money. Prisoner admitted to being a widow for 15 years and said that John Cryer with whom she left the child was her cousin. By this time Cryer was dead. Prisoner had visited Ripon twice since then and her daughter had always refused to go with her. The bench adjourned the case for a month to see if the prisoner would refrain from interfering with the girl, the Mayor intimating that the authorities would be best pleased if she would leave the town."

A follow-up to the case could not be located so we do not know if any further action was taken in the case. Ann may have remarried in Ripon - a marriage between Ann Sickling and Thomas Robinson is recorded in 1893, and this couple are resident in Ripon in the 1901 census, Thomas being an agricultural labourer (31,32). When Ann Robinson died in 1909 her birth year on the index was estimated as 1845, and this would tie in with her being our subject, Ann Sickling née Fawcett.

As for her children, Margaret married Walter Wilkinson White, a chimney sweep from Ripon, in 1900 (33). In 1911, Margaret and Walter were living on Allhallowgate, just along the road from the Workhouse, with their children John Henry, aged 10, and Bessie, aged 4 (34). Walter is recorded as an 'Employer', and two other chimney sweeps are lodging with the family, perhaps his employees (34).

Ann's son, John Thomas, married Margaret Halliday in 1898 and also remained in Ripon (35). In 1901, John made his living as a hawker and in 1911, by which time the couple had 4 children, as a farm labourer (36,37). During the First World War, John Thomas enlisted in 1915 at the age of 36, and served with the Prince of Wales Own West Yorkshire Regiment, qualifying as a 'Bomb Thrower' (38). His service record notes that he could not read or write. John served in France from 1916, and was hospitalized at some point during 1918. He was discharged and returned to Ripon in 1919.

References

- (1) 'Ann Elizabeth Fawcett' (1847) *Certified entry recording birth on the Civil Registration Index, Oct-Dec 1847*. Available on www.findmypast.co.uk. (Accessed 02/11/2019)
- (2) 'Margaret Lambert and Thomas Fawcett' (1841) *Marriage of Margaret and Thomas Fawcett, Ripon. November 14th 1841. Yorkshire Marriages*. Available on www.findmypast.co.uk (Accessed 02/11/2019)
- (3) 'Ann Fawcett' (1851) Census return for Ripon. Public Record Office PRO HO107/2281 folio 252 58 (1851). Available on www.findmypast.co.uk. (Accessed 02/11/2019)
- (4) 'Robert Fawcett', 'William Fawcett' (1855) Baptism of Robert Fawcett and William Fawcett, Ripon Cathedral, 6th November 1855. Yorkshire Baptisms. Available on www.findmypast.co.uk. (Accessed 02/11/2019)
- (5) 'Matthew Fawcett' (1857) Baptism of Matthew Fawcett, Ripon Cathedral, 18th December 1857. Yorkshire Baptisms. Available on www.findmypast.co.uk. (Accessed 02/11/2019)
- (6) 'Margaret Fawcett' (1857) Burial of Margaret Fawcett, Ripon Cathedral, 18th December 1857, Yorkshire Burials. Available on www.findmypast.co.uk. (Accessed 02/11/2019)

- (7) 'Thomas Fawcett and Caroline Bater' (1860) Marriage of Thomas Fawcett and Caroline Bater, Ripon Cathedral, 4th February 1860. Yorkshire Marriages. Available on www.findmypast.co.uk. (Accessed 02/11/2019)
- (8) 'Emma Bater' (1859) Certified entry of birth on the Civil Registration Index, Vol 09A P69, Jan – Mar 1859. Available on https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp. (Accessed 19/12/2019).
- (9) 'Margaret Fawcett' (1861) Certified entry of birth on the Civil Registration Index. Vol 9A P65. Jan-Mar 1861. Available on https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp. (Accessed 19/12/2019).
- (10) 'Thomas Fawcett' (1861) Census return for Ripon. Public Record Office PRO RG9/3196 folio 82 p40 (1861). Available on www.findmypast.co.uk. (Accessed 02/11/2019)
- (11) 'Ann Fawcett' (1861) Census return for Ripon. Public Record Office PRO RG9/3196 folio 6 p5 (1861). Available on www.findmypast.co.uk. (Accessed 02/11/2019)
- (12) 'John Fawcett' (1861) Census return for Ripon. PRO RG 9/3196; Folio: 133; P 28. (1861) Available on www.findmypast.co.uk. (Accessed 02/11/2019)
- (13) Winpenny, D. (2017) The Civic Society Column. <https://www.ripongazette.co.uk/news/civic-society-column-david-winpenny-723954>. (Accessed 19/12/2019).
- (14) 'Ann Fawcett and Henry Sickling' (1866) *Marriage of Ann Sickling and Henry Sickling, 21st May 1866, District Chapel, Sharow*. Available on www.findmypast.co.uk (Accessed 02/11/2019)
- (15) 'Henry Sickling' (1879) *Certified entry of death on the Civil Registration Index, Jul-Sep 1879..* Available on www.findmypast.co.uk (Accessed 02/11/2019)
- (16) 'Henry Sickling' (1879) *Burial of Henry Sickling, 27th July 1879, Sharow. Yorkshire Burials.* (Available on www.findmypast.co.uk (Accessed 02/11/2019)
- (17) Ripon Board of Guardians (1880) Application and Report Book, Ripon Board of Guardians. January 1880. NYCRO BG/RI/4/1/3. North Yorkshire County Record Office.

- (18) Ripon Board of Guardians (1880) Application and Report Book, Ripon Board of Guardians. March 25th 1880. NYCRO BG/RI/4/1/3. North Yorkshire County Record Office
- (19) Ripon Board of Guardians (1880) Application and Report Book, Ripon Board of Guardians. September 4th 1880. NYCRO BG/RI/4/1/3. North Yorkshire County Record Office
- (20) Ripon Board of Guardians (1881) Application and Report Book, Ripon Board of Guardians. March 24th 1880. NYCRO BG/RI/4/1/3. North Yorkshire County Record
- (21) 'Margaret Sickling' (1877) *Certified entry recording birth on the Civil Registration Index, Jan-Mar 1877*. Available on www.findmypast.co.uk. (Accessed 02/11/2019)
- (22) 'John Thomas Sickling' (1878) *Certified entry recording birth on the Civil Registration Index, Jul-Sep 1878*. Available on www.findmypast.co.uk. (Accessed 02/11/2019)
- (23) Ripon Board of Guardians (1881) *Admission & Discharge Registers, Ripon Workhouse. March 16th 1881. NYCRO BG/RI/5/3/1 North Yorkshire County Record Office.*
- (24) 'Sarah Steel Sickling' (1881) *Baptism of Sarah Steel Sickling, Holy Trinity Ripon, 21st Apr 1881*. Available on www.findmypast.co.uk. (Accessed 02/11/2019)
- (25) Ripon Board of Guardians (1881) *Admission & Discharge Registers, Ripon Workhouse 28th April 1881. NYCRO BG/RI/5/3/1 North Yorkshire County Record Office*
- (26) 'Sarah Sickling' (1881) *Certified entry of death on the Civil Registration Index, Jul-Sep 1881*. Available on www.gro.gov.uk. (Accessed 02/11/2019)
- (27) Ripon Board of Guardians (1881) Application and Report Book, Ripon Board of Guardians. July 1881. NYCRO BG/RI/4/1/3. North Yorkshire County Record
- (28) 'Sarah Steel Sickling' (1881) *Burial of Sarah Steel Sickling, 28th July 1881, Ripon Cathedral. Yorkshire Burials*. Available on www.findmypast.co.uk. (Accessed 02/11/2019)
- (29) 'Margaret Sickling' (1891) *Census return for Ripon, RG12/3510; Folio: 20; P 33*. Available on www.findmypast.co.uk. (Accessed 02/11/2019)

- (30) 'Ann Sickling' (1893) '*Singular Charge of Child Desertion*'. *York Herald*. 28th April 1893. Available on www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk. (Accessed 02/11/2019)
- (31) 'Ann Sickling and Thomas Robinson' (1893) *Certified entry of marriage on the Civil Registration Index*. Vol 9a p131. Oct-Dec 1893. Available on www.findmypast.co.uk. (Accessed 02/11/2019)
- (32) 'Ann Robinson' (1909) *Certified entry of death on the Civil Registration Index*. Vol 9a p49. Jul-Sep 1909. Available on www.findmypast.co.uk. (Accessed 02/11/2019)
- (33) 'Margaret Sickling and Walter Wilkinson White' (1900) *Certified entry recording marriage on the Civil Registration Index*. Available on www.findmypast.co.uk. (Accessed 02/11/2019)
- (34) 'Margaret White' (1911) *Census return for Ripon*. Class: RG14/25851. Available on www.findmypast.co.uk. (Accessed 02/11/2019)
- (35) 'John Thomas Sickling and Margaret Halliday' (1898) *Certified entry recording marriage on the Civil Registration Index*. Vol 9a p129. Jul-Sep 1898. Available on www.findmypast.co.uk. (Accessed 02/11/2019)
- (36) 'John Thomas Sickling' (1901) *Census return for Ripon*. RG13/4042; Folio: 37; P15. Available on www.findmypast.co.uk. (Accessed 02/11/2019)
- (37) 'John Thomas Sickling' (1911) *Census return for Ripon*. RG14/25854. Available on www.findmypast.co.uk. (Accessed 02/11/2019)
- (38) 'John Thomas Sickling' (1914) *British Army WW1 Army Service Records 1914-1920*. Available on www.ancestry.co.uk. (Accessed 02/11/2019)
- (39) 'Thomas Fawcett' (1871) *Census return for South East Leeds*. RG10/4546; Folio: 10; p14; . Available on www.ancestry.co.uk. (Accessed 02/11/2019)