

Margaret Tempest (née White)

(b. 1852 d. 1898)

Nicola Bradbury

Margaret White was born in 1852 in Reeth to Sarah and James White (1). Her mother's maiden name was Sunter (2). At the time of the 1861 census, Margaret was living in Low Row, Melbecks with her mother Sarah, a widow, and four siblings (3). Sarah and her three older children, Mary, Ann and Thomas, were recorded as 'Dressers of Lead Ore'. Also in the household was an infant, Sarah Jane, granddaughter of Sarah.

By 1871, Margaret, aged 19, was a servant to a farmer in Marske. The following year she gave birth to a daughter, Sarah Ann, and in 1874, married Matthew Tempest, a sawyer, in Kirkby Ravensworth (4,5,6). The couple had two more daughters, Elizabeth, born in 1875 in Ripon, and Jane, born in 1877 in Ripon (7,8).

The following year, Margaret begins to appear in the records of the Ripon Board of Guardians. Towards the end of 1878, Margaret applied for outdoor relief due to her husband's sickness (9). Matthew was to die shortly afterwards at the age of 23, and was buried at Ripon Cathedral on 3rd November 1878 (10).

Margaret then applied for funds to cover the cost of her husband's coffin and funeral expenses, and once again for outdoor relief, for which she was allocated 16s weekly (11). At a further appearance in March 1879, it was noted that Margaret was living with her father-in-law in North Street, Ripon, but was 'partially' unable to maintain her three children, and an order for admission to the Workhouse was made (12).

Margaret gave birth to another child, a son named Matthew, who was baptised at Holy Trinity Church, Ripon on the 24th March 1880, with the place of residence given as 'The Union' (13). Margaret and her children continued to be resident in the Workhouse at the time of the 1881 census (14). Her youngest child Matthew died towards the end of 1882, at the age of 2 (15).

By 1891, Margaret was living in Bradford with her daughter Jane, aged 14, where both were employed as Worsteds Mill hands (16). Her middle daughter Elizabeth was also in Bradford, living-in as a domestic servant

to a tailor (17). Both Margaret and Elizabeth are believed to have died in the first months of 1898 (18, 28).

Following the deaths of her mother and sister, Jane Tempest left her life in Bradford behind her, for on 24th March 1900 she was married to Ernest Albert Horsley in Rhode Island, USA (19). The marriage record gives her name as Jennie Tempest, and her parents are named as Matthew and Margaret. Ernest's parents are named as Isaac and Emma. In 1901, the couple had settled in Philadelphia City where Ernest worked as a machinist (20), and by 1910, they had four children – Harold, Margaret, Edith and Ernest (21). The census return shows that Ernest (senior) arrived in the United States in 1897, and that he was a naturalized citizen. Jennie (Jane) arrived in 1898 (21) or 1899 (20).

Ernest's application for US citizenship reveals more about him and his family (22). He was born in Bradford in 1875, and gives his profession as machine comb maker. He emigrated to the USA from Liverpool, on board the SS Pennland. This was a vessel chartered by the "American Line" which operated the Philadelphia-Liverpool route from 1892-1903 (23). The record gives the name of his wife as Jennie and her place of birth as Ripon, England. The names and dates of birth of his four children are also recorded.

Using this information, we can also locate Ernest in the 1891 UK census at the age of 16, living in Bradford with his parents, Isaac and Emma, and 7 siblings (24). His father was a furniture salesman and Ernest's profession is recorded as 'Millhand Worsted', suggesting that this is how he might have come to meet Jane Tempest, similarly employed at that time. In addition, the two young people lived less than a mile apart in Bradford.

Ernest died on December 15th 1910 at the age of 35 due to cardiac oedema and chronic vascular diseases (25). Some four years later, Jennie married Robert Walker in Philadelphia (26). In the 1920 US Census, Jennie and Robert were still resident in Philadelphia with the four children of Jennie's first marriage, (now under the surname 'Walker'), and their own son Robert, aged 3 (27). Jennie is a naturalized American citizen.

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