

## Survey of the future lives on Great Ayton village young ladies who had a baby out of wedlock in the years 1871–80

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Twelve young ladies of Great Ayton were recorded, from baptismal records, as having given birth to babies out of wedlock in the period 1871 -1880. This research note gives details of their recorded lives as determined from the Parish Records from All Saints Church, Great Ayton. The fact that these records are transcribed into Excel spreadsheets considerably reduces the time in accumulating this information. A small number of the mothers have been 'lost' which suggests they have move away from Great Ayton or married outside the village. In these cases the Family History website Ancestry.co.uk was used to gain additional information and where this was used the script is shown as *italic*.

The following table gives details of the baptism dates, child's and mother's names. Later in this note more details are given on the lives of these mothers and babies – these record both happy and sad developments in their future lives.

<u>Baptismal date</u>	<u>Child's forename</u>	<u>Mother's full name</u>
12/7/1871	Margaretta Ann	Annie Mossman
8/10/1871	Tom	Margaret Ann Garbutt
10/3/1873	William	Mary Jane Wright
19/3/1873	Ruth	Hannah Mankin
28/7/1874	George	Hannah Coatsworth
2/8/1874	John George	Margaret Wood
25/10/1874	Sarah Jane	Mary Jane Hindson
1/7/1875	William	Elizabeth Wilkinson
7/6/1876	Robert	Hannah Wilkinson
20/9/1879	Alice	Elizabeth Davey
19/7/1880	George Sleightholme	Mary Jane Hopper
28/11/1880	Charles Francis	Isabella Dodsworth

### ANNIE MOSSMAN

Annie Mossman is recorded in the 1871 Great Ayton census as step-daughter, aged 20, and living with William and Elizabeth Mountain's family. On News Years Day in 1877 Annie a servant, aged 25, marries David Simpson, widower aged 33. David had previously married Ann Leng, on 2/8/1868 and her burial date was 6/2/1876, aged 30, and from the 1881 census data it appears they had 3 children before Ann's demise. These children were John Thomas, Eliza and Robert page aged 13, 11 and 8 respectively. Subsequently before 1881 and following David and Annie's marriage they had two children from David's second marriage, two sons, David and James Mossman, aged 8 and 3 in 1881. The Great Ayton 1891 census shows three more children; George, Annie and Laurence, aged 10, 7 and 2 respectively.

Annie's daughter Margaretta Ann, born out of wedlock, married William Dowey a bachelor from Boosbeck, a miner, on 10/12/1898. *The census data for 1881, 1891 and 1901 for the East Cleveland area near Boosbeck indicates that William Dowey was not a bachelor, but a widower, when he married Margaretta. The census in 1881 has William married to a Mary born in Lythe, in 1891 William and Mary have three children: Robert aged 8, William aged 5 and John aged 3; in 1901 William has married Margaretta and the three children described above are 10 years older plus there is a baby of William and Margaretta, David T., aged 8 months.*

Margaretta and William's wedding was at All Saints Church in Great Ayton, and was witnessed by James and Annie Simpson who are Margaretta's half brother and sister. It is pleasing to see that the children following Annie's marriage to David have stayed in contact with Margaretta. What is not recorded is whether Margaretta's mother or step-father attended the wedding.

### MARGARET ANN GARBUTT

Tom, the illegitimate son of Margaret Ann Garbutt, was baptised on 8/10/1871. Eight years later, aged 29, Margaret Ann married widower William Rossiter, aged 34, on 11/10/1879. The bride and grooms fathers, both deceased, are recorded as Isaac Rossiter (farmer) and John Garbutt.

The baptismal records around 1871 indicate that Margaret Ann Garbut had two more illegitimate children: Henry baptised 24/7/1867 and Margaret baptised 15/6/1876, and these were born before Margaret Ann married William Rossiter. Following William Rossiter and Margaret Ann's marriage they appear to have moved from Great Ayton and *in the 1881 census they are in Whitham, Durham and in 1891 and 1910 they are at Embleton, Northumberland. In 1881 Margaret's sons Henry and Thomas are living with Margaret and William, however by 1891 both sons have moved away from their family home. These census records show that William Rossiter was born in Evercreech, Somerset and Margaret Ann in Scorton. In 1891 William and Margaret Ann own a Lodging House and have 8 boarders; in 1881 William is a coal miner and in 1901 works in a whinstone mine nr.Embleton.*

#### MARY JANE WRIGHT

Mary Jane was a child of James, labourer, and Ann Wright of Langbaugh, and has probably the most tragic story of all the young ladies recorded in this document. Mary Jane's son, William, was baptised on March 10<sup>th</sup> 1873, however within 6 days Mary Jane had died and was being buried at the tender age of 17. Further tragedy was recorded in May when William's burial was recorded aged only 11 weeks. Both Mary's and William's burial services were taken by G A Johnson.

Looking back through baptismal records we find that Mary Jane was the youngest of three children of James and Ann Wright of Langbaugh and baptised on 24/8/1855– the baptismal dates of the other two children were Elizabeth Ann 30/11/1851 and Hannah 3/12/1853.

#### HANNAH MANKIN

The Great Ayton 1871 census record shows Hannah Mankin as a Widow and Head of the household with son Martin Thompson aged 10 and son Thomas Mankin aged 3. Ruth, the illegitimate daughter of Hannah was baptised on 19/3/1873. Ruth is not recorded in later entries except there is a Ruth Mankin burial registered on 12/10/1873 aged 2.

Investigations into the use of the Thompson surname indicates a troubled history for Hannah and her family. The Thompson surname appears first in the 1861 Stokesley Workhouse census where Hannah Thompson is described as single aged 25, the adjacent entry is for Martin Thompson an infant of 2 months. Hannah seems to be using the Thompson surname, however by 1871 she is described as a widow with the surname Mankin. Martin Thompson aged 10 and Thomas Mankin aged 3 are living with Hannah and both described as her sons. Martin Thompson was born in Stokesley and this may describe Hannah's situation at the time of the census in 1861 as Hannah, single, was an inmate in the Stokesley Workhouse with a recently born son, Martin aged 2 months. Why the Thompson surname?

#### HANNAH COATSWORTH

Hannah parents were William and Sarah Coatsworth of Great Ayton and George, the illegitimate son of Hannah, was baptised 28/7/1874.

In the 1881 census George, aged 6, is living with his grandparents William and Sarah in California.

George is not registered in either the 1891 or 1901 census for Great Ayton and as he is not in the burials list it is assumed he has moved from the area.

#### MARGARET WOOD

Margaret was the youngest child of George and Ann Wood of Great Ayton. Illegitimate son John George was baptised 2/8/1874 at All Saints Church, unfortunately he died very early in his life and was buried on 12/9/1874 aged only 9 weeks. Presumably John George was baptised a few weeks after his birth if his true age was 9 weeks. In the 1881 census Margaret was not recorded as living in Great Ayton.

Earlier records of the Wood family show Margaret's father and mother, George and Ann living in Great Ayton. In the 1851 census George, 37, and Ann, 28, have 4 children, Joseph, 10, Jane, 8, Robert, 6, and Elizabeth, 2. By 1861 census father George is a widower and has three children living with him, Jane, aged 18, servant, Martha aged 9 and Margaret aged 5- all their family were born in Great Ayton.

At the 1871 census father George is living with daughter Margaret, 16, as housekeeper and Eliza, 12, niece.

#### MARY JANE HINDSON

Mary Jane Hindson's parents were Joseph and Sarah, maiden name Bennison of Great Ayton.

Mary Jane's illegitimate daughter Sarah Jane was baptised 25/10/1874, aged around 1 mth. and within a very short time she was being buried 4/11/1874 aged only 6 weeks.

By the 1881 census Mary Jane is married to Robert Thomas McPherson, a groom from Middlesbrough, married on 13/1/1877, and they have 3 children Jane Elizabeth, aged 3, Thomas aged 1, and John aged 3 mths, all children and the mother were born in Great Ayton. Prior to the 1891 census they have Joseph E, Robert, Ethel and after the 1891 census they have 3 more children Elizabeth, George and Sarah. Prior to the 1891 census two infants die: Lizzie Hudson aged 4 and William Henry infant.

This summary indicates that Mary Jane, despite bearing an illegitimate child, seems to have had a successful family life with many other children from her marriage to Robert MacPherson.

#### ELIZABETH WILKINSON

Elizabeth Ann Wilkinson was the daughter of Robert and Jane Wilkinson and Elizabeth's illegitimate son William was born in mid-1875 and baptised on 1/7/1875. Very few details are available on her later life, there is no record that she married in Great Ayton. Son William aged 6, in the 1881 Great Ayton census is recorded as living with his mother's parent, Grandfather and Grandmother, Robert and Jane, aged 58 and 54 respectively and he has three Uncles and one Aunt (Robert and Jane's older children). One can imagine William being spoilt by his Uncles and Aunt.

In 1883 father Robert died and by the 1891 census son Thomas had married Mary Jane Helm and young William was working as a stonecutter, probably with his uncles Robert and Henry who were also in this occupation. By the 1901 census Elizabeth's son would have been 26, however, he seems to have moved out of Great Ayton.

#### HANNAH WILKINSON

Hannah Wilkinson's son, Robert, was born out of wedlock and was baptised on 7/6/1876. Unfortunately both Hannah and Robert were not found in subsequent Great Ayton records.

#### ELIZABETH DAVEY

Single mum Elizabeth's baby Alice was baptised at All Saints Church on 7/6/1879 and Elizabeth has origins in rural Norfolk. The 1881 census records Elizabeth as Housekeeper, aged 26 to widower William Metcalf who has three children by his first wife, Margaret, these are named: Ann aged 10, Mary aged 7 and Thomas aged 4. Elizabeth's daughter Alice is 2nd living with William Metcalf's home. William originates from Crathorne and his first wife Margaret came from Hutton Cranswick nr. Beverley, she died in 1879 and was buried aged 39 on Sept 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### MARY JANE HOPPER

Mary Jane was the younger daughter of James and Ann Hopper and illegitimate son George Sleightholme was baptised 19/7/1880. In the 1881 Great Ayton census James, whinstone miner, and Ann Hopper have daughters Esther, 23, and Mary Jane, 19, plus Mary Jane's son George, aged 9 mths, living with them.

On March 15<sup>th</sup> 1882 Mary Jane, aged 20, marries Thomas Sleightholme, quarryman aged 28, signed register with a mark. Thomas's father is described as a farmer. *By the 1891 and 1901 censuses Thomas and Mary Jane and family are recorded in Brigham and Threlkeld in Cumbria and Thomas is working in a Granite Quarry. In 1901 son George is also a granite quarryman.*

*The 1911 census data shows George, aged 30, and married to Mary and living in Cumbria where they have three children: Bertha, 6; George, 5 and Thomas, 3. The children have all been born in differing locations indicating that George and Mary have not settled into a particular village.*

#### ISABELLA DODSWORTH

Isabella is the daughter of Foster and Margaret Dodsworth of Great Ayton. At the end of 1880 her illegitimate son Charles Francis was baptised on 28/11/1880.

The 1891 Great Ayton census records Isabella, aged 26 and son Charles Frank, aged 9, living with Isabella's parents. On the 20<sup>th</sup> June 1899 Isabella, aged 37, marries Joseph Chambers, a 39 year old widower and coal merchant from North Ormesby. The 1901 census has Isabella's son Charles Frank living with his grandmother Margaret, baker, at High Green. Charles is described as working as a shop assistant.