

## CHAPTER

## B13

## The EELES Family

### *“ North Yorkshire Stonemasons “*

The EELES name comes into our ancestry in the 4th generation where our GG-Grandmother, **Mary Ann Eeles** married our GG-Grandfather, **George Hurdman**. The Eeles family were originally from North Yorkshire and had settled in the villages of Carlton, Whorlton and Faceby, just beneath Sutton Bank on the Cleveland Hills. In 1820, some of them migrated south to the city of Hull and they settled in Drypool. Many of the men in the family were engaged as stone masons and this occupation seems to span multiple generations back into the 1700s.

Our earliest known member of this family was ...

### **Thomas Eeles ( 1762-1808 )**

Our GGGG-Grandfather was **Thomas Eeles (b.1762)**. He lived in the hamlet of Faceby, near to Carlton, North Yorkshire., working as a Stone Mason. In 1786, he married **Ann Appleton** in Whorlton, North Yorkshire. They had 2 children :-

Robert Eeles	b.1787, in Carlton, North Yorkshire
Elizabeth Eeles	b.1791, in Carlton, North Yorkshire (d.1791)

Thomas had further children throughout the next decade and for some years we believed that the mother of those children was Ann Appleton. However, we subsequently discovered that Ann Eeles, the wife of Thomas Eeles, had died in 1791 and was buried in Whorlton. This could only be Ann Appleton and meant that she was not the mother of subsequent children. Unfortunately, we could not trace any subsequent marriage for Thomas Eeles and so we are unable to confirm the name of their mother. The children involved were :-

Thomas Eeles	b.1792, in Carlton, North Yorkshire
James Eeles	b.1795, in Carlton, North Yorkshire
Ann Eeles	b.1798, in Carlton, North Yorkshire
Jeremiah Eeles	b.1800, in Carlton, North Yorkshire
Hannah Eeles	b.1803, in Carlton, North Yorkshire

All the above children were baptised in Carlton, but were probably born in Faceby, which is where the family lived. However, being just a small hamlet, Faceby did not have a parish church of its own, so any baptisms, marriages or burials would have occurred in Carlton.

**Thomas Eeles** (b.1792) followed his father's trade and became a stone mason. He married **Elizabeth Gibson** in 1814 at Carlton, North Yorkshire. They had 5 children :-

Robert Eeles	b.1815, at Carlton, North Yorkshire
Elizabeth Eeles	b.1820, at Carlton, North Yorkshire
George Eeles	b.1825, at Carlton, North Yorkshire
James Eeles	b.1826, at Carlton, North Yorkshire
Hannah Gibson Eeles	b.1828, at Carlton, North Yorkshire

**James Eeles** (b.1795) was our GGG-Grandfather and we will discuss him later.

**Ann Eeles** (b.1798) married John Holgate on 9th Nov 1815 at Carlton, North Yorkshire.

**Jeremiah Eeles** (b.1800) went to live in nearby Stokesley where he remained for the rest of his life. He died in 1854 and was buried in Carlton.

We have been unable to discover any further information on **Hannah Eeles** (b.1803).

## **James Eeles ( 1795 -1847 )**

**James Eeles (b.1795)** was our GGG-Grandfather. He was born in Faceby, North Yorkshire in 1795 and baptised in nearby Carlton. He was the son of **Thomas Eeles (b.1762)**, although we are unsure of the identity of his mother. As was the case with his brothers, he followed in his father's footsteps and became a stone mason. On 4th June 1820, he married **Margaret Smith (b.1800)** in Carlton, North Yorkshire. Margaret was also from Carlton and was the daughter of **Benjamin Smith (b.1770)**, the victualler of the Fox & Hounds Public House in Carlton. Soon after the marriage, James & Margaret migrated south to Hull and the remainder of their lives were centred on the area around Drypool., with James working as a stone mason.

Altogether, James & Margaret had 10 children :-

Thomas Eeles	b.1820, in Hull, East Yorkshire
Ann Eeles	b.1822, in Hull, East Yorkshire (d.1826)
Hannah Eeles	b.1825, in Hull, East Yorkshire
Jane Eeles	b.1827, in Hull, East Yorkshire
Mary Ann Eeles	b.1830, in Hull, East Yorkshire (d.1830)
Joseph Eeles	b.1831, in Hull, East Yorkshire
James Eeles	b.1834, in Hull, East Yorkshire (d.1834)
Mary Anne Eeles	b.1836, in Hull, East Yorkshire
Benjamin Smith Eeles	b.1838, in Hull, East Yorkshire
Margaret Eeles	b.1843, in Hull, East Yorkshire (d.1843)

In 1841, the family were living at Feather Lane in Church Street, Drypool. James was age 45 and working as a stone mason. His wife, Margaret was 40 and they had 5 children living with them ... Thomas (20), Hannah (15), Joseph (11), Mary Ann (5) and Benjamin (3).

**James Eeles (b.1795)** died in 1847 and was buried in Drypool cemetery.

By 1842 the family had moved from Feather Lane, Church Street to 2 Great Union Street in Drypool. They were still there at the time of the 1851 census, where it listed Margaret as the head of the household, a widow, age 51. Still living with her were her three sons - Thomas, a merchant's clerk, age 30; Joseph, a stone mason, age 20; and Benjamin, a scholar, age 13.

By the time of the 1861 census, the family had moved again and were now living at 5 Church Street in Drypool. Margaret was 61 years old, but had clearly decided to earn a living by renting some of her rooms as she was listed as a Lodging House Keeper. Living with her were two of her sons - Joseph, a stone mason, age 30 and Benjamin, now age 23 and working as a porter. In addition, there were three lodgers in the house.

By 1871, Margaret and her family had moved again and the census lists then at 37 Church Street in Drypool. Margaret is still the head of the household at 71 years of age. She is no longer listed as a Lodging House Keeper and no lodgers are living in the house. However, local trade directories continue to record her as a Lodging House Keeper until 1872. Living with her at the time are her unmarried son Benjamin (33) and her spinster daughter Hannah (45). Also living in the house is Margaret's grandson, 12-year old Walter Hurdman. This was the first child of her daughter, Mary Anne Eeles and her husband, George Hurdman.

**Margaret Eeles (Smith)** died on 25th November 1876 and was buried in Drypool cemetery.

As far as the children of James and Margaret are concerned ...

**Thomas Eeles** (b.1820) [ also known as Thomas Smith Eeles ], became a merchant's clerk. On 6th May 1855, at the age of 34, he married **Margaret Gillies** in Holy Trinity Church, She was 24 years old and was of Scottish origin, having been born in Aberdeen. A witness at the wedding was John Benjamin Dobson.

In 1861, the family were living at 9 Stubbin Street in Drypol. Thomas was not at home at the time of the census, but Margaret was 29 and listed as the wife of a merchant's clerk. They had two children - Mary Jane Eeles (10) and Alice Maud Eeles (1). *[ Note: The age of Mary Jane Eeles may have been incorrectly written as it does not tie in with the date of their marriage and she was not listed anywhere in the 1851 census ].* There is also a lodger living with them.

By 1871, Thomas, Margaret and family were still living at 9 Stubbin Street, Thomas was now listed as a commercial clerk. Their oldest daughter, Mary Jane Eeles, was no longer living with them as she had married David Hewick in Sculcoates Register Office in 1870. The other daughter, Alice Maud Eeles had died in 1863, age 4. However, they had four more children at home with them... James Dobson Eeles (15), Thomas Ambrose Eeles (6), Sarah Eeles (3) and Grace Eeles (1).

By 1881, the family had moved to 8 Thomas Street in Drypool. Thomas was listed as a builder's clerk and he and Margaret were age 60 and 49 respectively. James Dobson Eeles, a joiner, was 25 years old. Thomas Ambrose Eeles, a brassfounder's apprentice, was 15. The two girls, Sarah & Grace were 13 and 11 years old.

It appears that, by 1891 the family had fallen on hard times. Thomas (70) was living in

the Hull Workhouse and listed as a pauper, although his occupation was still given as book-keeper. His wife, Margaret was living at 22 Buckingham Street, Hull. With her was her son, Thomas Ambrose Eeles, a brass finisher, age 25. Also in the house was her daughter, Sarah (23), her husband, Edward W. Rogerson (27, Corporation Beadle) and their young son, Edward A. Rogerson (4 months).

Altogether Thomas Eeles (b.1820) and Margaret (Gillies) had nine children, although four of them did not survive childhood. They were :-

Mary Jane Eeles	b.circa 1851
James Dobson Eeles	b.1856, at Drypool, Hull
Margaret Isabella Eeles	b.1858, at Drypool, Hull (d.1860)
Alice Maud Eeles	b.1859, at Drypool, Hull (d.1863)
Margaret Isabella Eeles	b.1862, at Drypool, Hull (d.1865)
Thomas Eckles Eeles	b.1864, at Drypool, Hull (d.1864)
Thomas Ambrose Eeles	b.1865, at Drypool, Hull
Sarah A Eeles	b.circa 1868, at Drypool, Hull
Grace A Eeles	b.circa 1870, at Drypool, Hull

James Dobson Eeles subsequently married Anne Sykes in 1882. They had one daughter, Minnie Gertrude Eeles and the family lived at 24 Wilde Street, Southcoates. In local trade directories James was listed as a draper at this address for at least 15 years (between 1895 and 1909), and perhaps later.

Thomas Ambrose Eeles later married someone called Sarah Elizabeth (surname unknown) and they lived at 5 Swan Crescent, Chapman Street, Hull, and operated a cycle making business next door at 6 Swan Crescent, Hull. In a later 1925 trade directory, he is listed as being a cycle dealer at 6 Chapman Street.

In the 1891 census, Grace Eeles was listed as unmarried and working as a domestic servant at 1 Pharmacy Buildings, Burleigh Street, Hull.

Resuming the discussion of the remaining children of **James Eeles (b.1795)** and **Margaret (nee Smith)** ...

**Hannah Eeles (b.1825)** never married as far as we are aware. She worked as a nurse and in 1851, was 24 years old and living at 17 Great Union Street, Drypool. By 1871, she had returned to live with her elderly mother at 37 Church Street, Drypool.

**Jane Eeles (b.1827)** married a man named Dobson, but other than that we have no further information. However, this may have been either a relative or a close family friend, given that her older brother (James) was baptised with a middle name of Dobson and there was also a John Benjamin Dobson who had been a witness at her parents marriage. Also her youngest brother was named Benjamin.

**Joseph Eeles (b.1831)** took up his father's occupation and became a stone mason. He never married and died at 34 years of age in 1865.

**Mary Anne Eeles (b.1836)** was our GG-Grandmother (see details below).

**Benjamin Smith Eeles (b.1838)** was the youngest member of the family surviving

childhood. He never married and may have had some type of mental problem. Whilst his mother was still alive, he lived with her, but in the 1891 census, at the age of 52, he was living in the Lunatic Asylum and in 1901 he was listed as being in hospital.

## Mary Anne Eeles ( 1836-1891)

**Mary Anne Eeles (b.1836)** was our GG-Grandmother. The early part of her life was spent around the Church Street and Great Union Street areas of Drypool.

By the time of the 1851 census, she was 15 years of age and had started working. At this time she was employed as a house servant, working for Robert Dawber, a bone merchant, at 35 Charles Street, Hull.

On 2nd September 1855, Mary Anne Eeles married **George Hurdman (b.1832)**, a hairdresser, at St.James Parish Church in Sutton. They moved to 3 Witham and remained at that address until at least 1867.

It appears that Mary Anne was already pregnant at the time of their marriage as their first child was born a couple of months later. However, he did not survive. They went on to have seven children altogether ...

James Henry Hurdman	b.1855, in Hull (d.1856)
George Hurdman	b.1857, in Hull (d.1864)
Walter Hurdman	b.1859, in Hull
Alice Hurdman	b.1862, in Hull
Clara Hurdman	b.1866, in Hull
Bertha Hurdman	(our G-Grandmother)
Maud Hurdman	b.1872, in Hull

For further details, see the chapter on the HURDMAN Family.

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As can be seen in the previous text of this Chapter, after the 1820 migration of the EELES family from rural North Yorkshire, they settled in Drypool and most of them lived in that area for the remainder of their lives.

Today, Drypool is just a small district of central Hull. However, in it's early days it was a small village next to Hull, on the eastern bank of the River Hull, near where it meets the River Humber. It developed as an area of poor housing and by the early 1900s, most of it was considered as a slum area and in need of redevelopment.

In the 1930s, most of the old Drypool housing was demolished and many of the streets mentioned in this Chapter disappeared into history, as did St.Peters Parish Church and the church graveyard. However, archival photographs taken prior to the demolition give us an idea of what it may have looked like at the time that the Eeles family lived there.

## The Streets of Drypool

Photographs taken in the 1930s - but little would have changed since the mid 19th century



**Feather Lane**

Feather Lane is where James Eeles and family were living in 1841. The main photograph is a view looking south from Church Street, whilst the two small photos show numbers 2 & 3 George's Buildings in Feather Lane. As can be seen, Feather Lane was less than 100 yards in length and contained few houses, so it's quite possible that we could be looking at a house in which they lived.

### Church Street

The Eeles family lived at 5 Church Street and later at 37 Church Street.

The photo at the right shows numbers 38 to 46, whereas the lower photos give a front and rear view of numbers 32 to 40.

The Eeles family will have lived on the opposite side of the road, but their houses were probably very similar. In fact, what we see in these photographs may have been what they saw from their front window in the mid 19th century.

