

CHAPTER

B4

The MYERS Family

“East Yorkshire Labourers “

Despite the fact that we always considered ourselves to be ‘from Hull’, our research has shown that, in general, it takes no more than 3 or 4 generations before we discover that the family came from elsewhere and migrated to Hull and that this usually took place during the mid-19th century period known as the Industrial Revolution.

However, of all our ancestral lines, the Myers family can probably be considered as the most ‘local’. We can trace our Myers ancestry back more than 300 years to the late 1600s and it was confined to the East Yorkshire parishes in Holderness, generally working as agricultural labourers.

The spelling of the Myers name has also varied throughout the years. Prior to the 20th century, spelling was not particularly significant as the average person was uneducated and could neither read nor write. When asked to sign something, people would just ‘make their mark’ (usually just an ‘X’) and the writing of names at baptisms, marriages and burials was undertaken by a parish clerk. The spelling was dependent upon how a parish clerk heard it spoken and the parish clerk’s habit of writing certain sounds. Consequently, we see the name Myers also spelt as Myas, Myass, Mias, Miass, etc, but we can consider them all to be the Myers name that we know today.

One of the unusual things about our Myers ancestry is the relatively few generations required to take us back a couple of hundred years. During those times, a generation usually spanned about 25 years, so a century could cover 4 generations. However, in the 1800s, we jumped almost 100 years in 2 generations as they had some of their children relatively late in life. We have a few possibilities regarding earlier generations of our Myers ancestry going back into the late 1600s, but our earliest confirmed Myers ancestor is ...

Thomas Myas (c.1710 - 1768)

Our 5G-Grandfather, **Thomas Myas** married **Mary Brown** in Witherwick, East Yorkshire on 26th March 1744. Although we have a few possibilities, we have not positively traced the baptism of Thomas, although we estimate it to be about 1710. Mary was the daughter of **Hilary Brown** and his wife, **Rachel**. He had been born in Long Riston, East Yorkshire in 1701, but had later moved to Witherwick as he died there in 1750 and his daughter, Mary Brown had been born there in 1718, when Hilary must have been no more than 17 years of age.

Thomas and Mary had six children:-

Anne Myas	b.1744	in Withernwick, East Yorkshire (d.1769)
Jane Myas	b.1746	in Withernwick, East Yorkshire
Robert Myas	b.1751	in Withernwick, East Yorkshire
Willi Myas	b.1754	in Withernwick, East Yorkshire
Mary Myas	b.1758	in Withernwick, East Yorkshire (d.1758)
Henry Myas	b.1759	in Withernwick, East Yorkshire (d.1762)

Thomas Myas died in Withernwick in 1768 and was buried there on 13th September 1768. His wife Mary died less than 5 months later in 1769 and was buried in Withernwick on 23rd February 1769.

Jane Myas (1746 - 1800)

Our 4G-Grandmother was **Jane Myas**, born 1746 in Withernwick, East Yorkshire. She never married, but she had five children altogether:-

Ann Myas	b.1771	in Sproatley, East Yorkshire
Henry Myas	b.1776	in Sproatley, East Yorkshire
David Myas	b.1782	in Sproatley, East Yorkshire
Theodosia Myas	b.1785	in Sproatley, East Yorkshire (d.1798)
Hannah Myas	b.1789	in Sproatley, East Yorkshire

In those times, if a woman did not have a husband to provide support for her children, then she was given charitable support from 'the parish' (church). However, if a man was alleged to be the father of illegitimate children he would have to go before a Quarter Sessions court where the allegation of fatherhood (bastardy) could be either admitted or proved/unproved if he denied it. If the man either accepted it or it was proved, then a court order would force him to provide financial support for the family.

In the Quarter Sessions Court of Christmas 1772, James Stephenson of Little Cowden and David Stephenson of Bilton, labourers, appeared before the court in a case of Bastardy Recognisance for Jane Myers of Sproatley, singlewoman. The outcome was documented as follows:-

"In East Riding County of York James Stephenson of Little Cowden in the said Riding, Labourer, acknowledges to owe to our Sovereign Lord the King, the sum of Twenty Pounds. David Stephenson of Bilton in the said Riding, Labourer, acknowledges to owe to our Sovereign Lord the King, the sum of Twenty Pounds.

To be Levied upon the condition that if the above bound James Stephenson do appear at the next Quarter Sessions of the Peace to be held in and for the said Riding and also perform such Order and Orders which shall be made upon him touching his begetting Jane Myers of Sproatley in the said Riding, Singlewomoan, with child and not depart the Court without leave, then the Recognizance to be void, and also remain in full force.

Taken and acknowledged this 29th January 1771 before me, Isaac Broadley"

The consequence of this is that James Stephenson was proved to be the father of Jane Myas first child (Ann) and his brother, David Stephenson was acting as guarantor that he would provide the necessary support. Effectively, James Stephenson was declared as Jane's Common Law husband and he would be bound to pay for the first child. If there were subsequent children (as there were in the case), then Jane would present the other children to the Overseers to the Poor and a verbal promise by James would be all that would be necessary to acknowledge that he was also the father of those children and would provide financial support for them. If he denied it, then there would be a subsequent case in the Quarter Sessions court. As there were no

subsequent cases with Jane Myas, we can assume that James was also the father of her remaining children:-

Ann Myas (b.1771), like her mother, also never married, but she had seven illegitimate children:-

Ann Myas	d.1800	in Sproatley, East Yorkshire
William Myas	b.1798	in Sproatley, East Yorkshire
Mary Myers	b.1799	in Humbleton, East Yorkshire
John Myers	b.1801	in Humbleton, East Yorkshire (d.1802)
Jane Myers	b.1804	in Humbleton, East Yorkshire
John Myers	b.1807	in Humbleton, East Yorkshire (d.1887, Hedon)
Mary Myers	b.1812	in Humbleton, East Yorkshire

Henry Myas (b.1776) was our 3G-Grandfather (see further details below).

David Myas (b.1782) was an agricultural labourer. He married **Ann Clark** in Hedon, East Yorkshire on 11th December 1809. He died in South Frodingham in 1861 at the age of 78 years. David and Ann had eight children:-

Mary Myers	b.1810	in Hedon, East Yorkshire
William Myers	b.1813	in Hedon, East Yorkshire
George Myers	b.1815	in Hedon, East Yorkshire
David Myas	b.1818	in South Frodingham, East Yorkshire
Thomas Myas	b.1823	in South Frodingham, East Yorkshire
Peter Myas	b.1830	in South Frodingham, East Yorkshire
Ann Myas	b.1833	in South Frodingham, East Yorkshire (d.1833)
Richard Myas	b.1833	in South Frodingham, East Yorkshire (d.1833)

Henry Myas (1776 - 1847)

Henry Myas was born in 1776 at Sproatley, East Yorkshire and he was our 3G-Grandfather. On 4th December 1801 he married **Rachael Carrick** at Skirlaugh, East Yorkshire. Rachael was the daughter of **Thomas Carrick** and **Hannah** (nee Francis) of Easington, East Yorkshire. The Carricks had other family members living at Swine and Coniston, so this was probably the reason that she was in that area and subsequently met Henry. Henry Myas and Rachael had eight children:-

Carrick Myers	b.1802	in West Newton, East Yorkshire
Hannah Mias	b.1804	in Marton-in-Holderness, East Yorkshire
Henry Mias	b.1807	in Withernwick, East Yorkshire (d.1827)
George Carrick Myers	b.1813	in Sproatley, East Yorkshire
William Myass	b.1816	in West Newton, East Yorkshire
Rachael Mias	b.1819	in Sproatley, East Yorkshire
Thomas Mias	b.1821	in West Newton, East Yorkshire
Robert Mias	b.1823	in Sproatley, East Yorkshire (d.1824)

From the above it can be seen that the family moved frequently, with births taking place in multiple villages. In addition, some of the baptisms and burials occurred in places other than those where they were born (eg Swine, Aldbrough, etc). All this suggests that they did not have a very static life and were frequently on the move. However, Henry Myas was an agricultural labourer and some of these villages were on the Burton Constable Estate. Therefore, he was probably a labourer employed by the Estate and had to travel to surrounding villages to undertake whatever work was

necessary, perhaps living a few months here and a few months there.

Rachael died, age 66 years, on 16th November 1846, at West Newton. The cause of her death was given as 'organic disease of the uterus', a condition which had been certified for 5 years. Today, we would probably refer to this as cancer of the womb. She was buried on 18th November 1846 at Aldbrough, East Yorkshire.

Henry died, age 71 years, on 6th August 1847 at South Skirlaugh. At the time, he was living with his daughter, Hannah Rogerson (nee Mias) and family as the informant of his death was William Rogerson, his son-in-law. The cause of his death was bronchorhoa, with which he had been certified for 10 weeks. Henry was buried in Aldbrough, East Yorkshire on 8th August 1847.

Carrick Myers (1802 - 1869)

Our GG-Grandfather was **Carrick Myers**, born 1802 in West Newton, East Yorkshire and baptised in nearby Withernwick. We have no information on his early years, but we do know that he married fairly late in life, when he was almost 48 years old. On 1st July 1850, he married **Leath Young** at St.Andrews Parish Church in Drypool. Leath Young, was born in 1816 in Londesborough, East Yorkshire, the daughter of **John Young**, an agricultural labourer, and **Sarah** (nee Gray).

Carrick & Leath (possibly known as 'Leah') produced three children:-

Henry Myers	b.1851	in West Newton, East Yorkshire
Albert Thomas Myers	b.1854	in Drypool, East Yorkshire
Sarah Gray Myers	b.1860	in Drypool, East Yorkshire

At the time of the 1851 census, the family were living at 7 Green Lane, Hellards Row, Drypool. Living with Carrick, an agricultural labourer, and Leath, were her two children prior to marriage, Rachel Young (12) and John Young (10), both of whom had been born at Holme on Spalding Moor. Also living with them was Leath's widower father, John Young (79), who had been born at Melbourne, near Pocklington.

By 1861, the family had moved to Marvel Street, Naylor's Row, Drypool. Rachel was no longer living with them (perhaps married), but in addition, they did have their three children - Henry (9), Albert (6) and Sarah (1). Leath's father was still alive and was 90 years of age.

Henry Myers (b.1851) was born in West Newton, but was baptised in Drypool. At the time of the 1871 census, Henry was 19 years of age and a mariner. He was living as a boarder at 1 Spicer Place, Southcoates, Hull. This was the house of James Kerman (28) and his wife, Rachel (nee Young). She was Henry's step-sister, the daughter of Leath Young. In 1881, Henry was 29 years of age, married and working as a labourer. He and his wife were living at 6 Mill Yard, Holderness Road, Southcoates, Hull. The family had moved again by 1891 and were at 8 Myrtle Grove, Nornabell Street, Southcoates, Hull and in 1901 were living at 20 Denmark Avenue, Holderness Road, Southcoates, Hull. He was then working as a boilermaker/engine fitter.

Albert Thomas Myers (b.1854) was our G-Grandfather (see details below).

We have little information on **Sarah Gray Myers (b.1860)**, although we do know that, at the time of the 1871 census, she was living with the family of her aunt, Hannah Rogerson (nee Myers) at South Skirlaugh, where she was 11 years of age and

recorded as a scholar.

Leath Myers (nee Young) died on 22nd March 1868, age 51 years, and was buried at Drypool. At that time the family were living at 3 Sherwoods Square, Marvel Street, Southcoates, Hull. The cause of her death was given as chronic bronchitis and dropsy.

Carrick Myers died the following year on 12th September 1869 at Skirlaugh, when he was age 67 years. He was classed as a labourer/excavator (which probably meant he did a lot of digging!).

Albert Thomas Myers (1854 - 1917)

Albert Thomas Myers was our G-Grandfather. He was born on 13th October 1854 in Drypool and was the second child of **Carrick Myers** and **Leath** (nee Young). He became a boilermaker and on 26th June 1876, at the age of 21 years, he married **Sarah Elizabeth Salter** at St.Marks Church, Sutton. During the next 11 years, they had seven children:-

Mary Ellen Myers	b.1877	in Hull, East Yorkshire
James Carrick Myers	b.1878	in Hull, East Yorkshire
Sidney A Myers	b.1881	in Hull, East Yorkshire
Albert Thomas Myers	b.1882	in Hull, East Yorkshire (d.1883)
Albert Thomas Myers	b.1884	in Hull, East Yorkshire
Violet Lilian Myers	b.1886	in Hull, East Yorkshire
Ernest A J Myers	b.1887	in Hull, East Yorkshire (d.1889)

Mary Ellen Myers (b.1877) became a dressmaker. She had one child in 1889, Daisy Leah Myers, although she died in 1892. Mary Ellen died in 1901, aged 23 years.

James Carrick Myers (b.1878) became a boilermaker/riveter and married Margaret Godfrey in 1897 at St.Charles Roman Catholic Church, Hull. They had eight children:-

Sarah Elizabeth Myers	b.1899	in Hull, East Yorkshire
Ellen Ada Myers	b.1900	in Hull, East Yorkshire
Margaret Ann Myers	b.1903	in Hull, East Yorkshire
Mary Angus Myers	b.1904	in Hull, East Yorkshire
Kathleen Violet Myers	b.1907	in Hull, East Yorkshire
Harriet Maud Myers	b.1909	in Hull, East Yorkshire
Alice Myers	b.1912	in Hull, East Yorkshire
James Albert Myers	b.1915	in Hull, East Yorkshire

Sarah Elizabeth Myers died in 1984. Ellen Ada Myers (known as "Nellie") married William Clayton and died in 1987. Margaret Ann Myers married Charles Wilson and died in 1984. Kathleen Violet Myers married Frank Swift and died in 1978. Harriet Maud Myers married Cyril James Morgan in 1931 and died in 1972 in Chichester, Sussex. Alice Myers married William Brice and died in 1952. James Albert Myers married Florence Good and died in Hammersmith, London in 1960.

James Carrick Myers (b.1878) had to follow his work in the early years and in 1901 he was to be found with his wife and first child, living at 19 Streatham Street, West Hartlepool, Co.Durham. He later returned to Hull and in 1924 he was living at 14 Waller Street, Holderness Road, Hull. All his children were raised as Roman Catholics and attended Wilton Street R.C.School. James died in 1933 in Hull, aged 54 years.

Albert Thomas Myers (b.1884) married Millicent Oliver. In 1923, they were living at 20 Freehold Terrace, Courtney Street, Hull. They had six children:-

James Carrick Myers	b.1912	in Hull, East Yorkshire
Olive Myers	b.	In Hull, East Yorkshire
Alice Myers	b.1921	in Hull, East Yorkshire (d.1921)
Stanley Myers	b.1921	in Hull, East Yorkshire
Arthur Myers	b.	In Hull, East Yorkshire
Eva Myers	b.	In Hull, East Yorkshire

Violet Lilian Myers (b.1886) married Matthew Parker. She died in 1976 in Hull.

Sarah Elizabeth Myers (nee Salter) died on 15th July 1897 and was buried at Hedon Road Cemetery, Hull. However, within 17 months Albert Thomas Myers had remarried to our G-Grandmother, **Ellen Maud Hambly** on 18th December 1898 at Hull Register Office. Eight days later, on 26th December 1898, our Grandmother, **Daisy Myers** was born. At this time, the family lived in Arundel Street, Hull.

Unfortunately, in 1912, Ellen Maud had a terrible accident which ultimately led to her death. In Craven Street there was a brick-built bridge which carried the road over the railway lines. At the top of the bridge were concrete steps which allowed pedestrians to make a quick descent to the bottom of the bridge. One day, whilst descending these steps, Ellen Maud caught her shoe in the hem of her long Edwardian dress. She tripped and fell to the bottom of the stairs, with a severe injury to her head. She survived, but the injury caused her to be confined to bed for about six months. Eventually, on 11th April 1913, she died as a result of the injury. The cause of death was given as 'softening of the brain'. She was buried in Hedon Road cemetery, Hull.

Albert Thomas Myers (b.1854) died on 1st August 1917 and he was buried in Hedon Road cemetery, Hull. The cause of his death was given as 'Bright's disease'.

During his life, Albert Thomas lived in a multitude of houses. At birth, he was living in Naylor's Row, Drypool. In the 1871 census he was listed at Spicer Place, Hull. At the time of his 1876 marriage, he was in Hodgson Street, Hull. The 1881 census recorded him at 15 Alice's Terrace, Warwick Street, Hull. In 1883 he was in Brighton Terrace, Bright Street, Hull and then back to Naylor's Row by 1889. The 1891 census saw him at 9 Braidwood Place, Bright Street, Hull. In 1897 he was living at 83 Spyvee Street, Hull, and then in Arundel Street, Hull in 1898. When Ellen Maud died in 1913, the family were living at 19 Belmont Street, Hull and when Albert Thomas died, he was at 14 Waller Street, Hull.

Daisy Myers (1898 - 1991)

Daisy Myers was our maternal Grandmother. She was the only child from the second marriage of **Albert Thomas Myers** and **Ellen Maud** (nee Hambly) and was born on 26th December 1898.

Unfortunately, Daisy lost both her parents whilst she was still a teenager. Her mother died in 1913 when she was just 14 years old. Her father died in 1917 when she was 18 years of age.

When Daisy was 16 years old, she had an illegitimate child, baptised as **James Myers**. Without a mother for support, she was not in a position to look after or raise the child herself, so he went to live with the family of Daisy's aunt, **Elizabeth Harris** (nee

Hambly), who lived in west Hull. It was Lizzie Harris who raised James Myers and for many years it was Daisy's secret that he even existed. In fact, even our Grandad did not know about it until it came to light by accident in the early 1930s, and even after that she was reluctant to talk about it. The identity of the father of the child was also a bit of a mystery, until our research revealed that it was probably a young man called **James Scarborough**.

On 27th October 1920, Daisy married our Grandfather, **James Macaulay** at Hull Register Office. Daisy was already expecting their first child, as our mother **Bertha Macaulay** was born on 22nd December 1920.

Although the niece of our grandmother Daisy, she was of a similar age and became her lifelong friend

For further information on the above, see the chapter on the MACAULAY Family.