

Find the Lady

My Great Grandfather was one of 15 Children born to my Great-Great-Grandparents. Although I have spent many years, on and off, researching my family tree, I had never looked closely at any of them apart from my Great Grandfather.

The eldest daughter is in my tree as Mary Miller, born on 7th February 1854. When I looked on Ancestry, I could find no information about her birth, she did not appear in any searches. I tried on freeBMD.org.uk but her birth did not appear there, trying dates and places around her birth. Of course, Mary Miller was quite a common name so as soon as I spread the net wider, the number of responses became unmanageable.

The 1861 census showed that her parents, John and Ann, lived in Pleasley Hill, Mansfield, with their daughter, Mary Miller, and several other children who had all been born in Pleasley Hill.

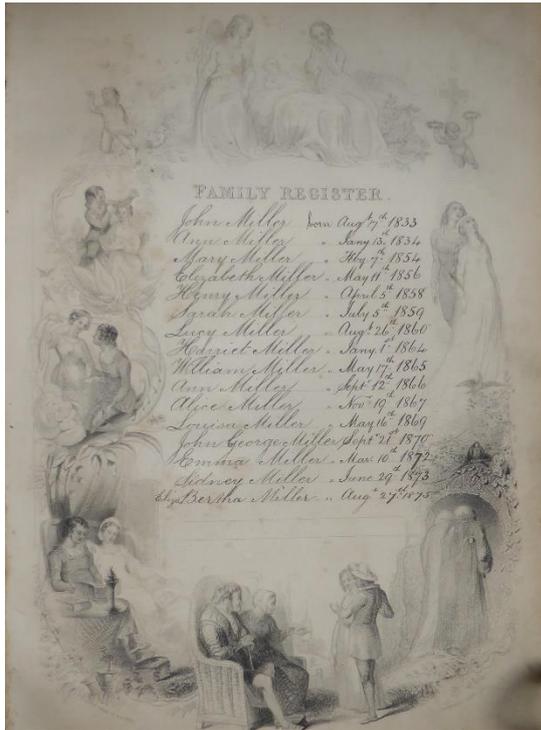
I then remembered that I had the front page in the Family Bible which I had inherited. (See below). There it was confirmed that Mary was born as I had recorded it. I then realised that I had previously researched the marriage of her parents, John Miller and Ann Moore. Looking at the marriage certificate which I had sent for some time ago, I saw that the wedding took place a month after the birth of Mary. This led me to suspect that as Mary was born before the marriage, she may have been given her mother's surname. So back to freeBMD.org.uk and carried out a search for Mary Moore, born in February 1854 in Pleasley Hill, probably registered in Mansfield.

There was Mary Moore, registered in the first quarter of 1854 in Mansfield. I made a note of the details and immediately sent for a copy of her birth certificate from the General Records Office, GRO.gov.uk. The file arrived as a PDF file a few days later. The date was 7th February 1854, born to Mary Moore in Pleasley Hill, but the father's details were blank.

So, to confirm that I had the correct Lady, my next step was back to freeBMD.org.uk to search for Mary's wedding. Given that her registered name was Mary Moore, I surmised that she would have married under that name, given that I had not found a marriage for Mary Miller in Mansfield around the right time. I took a guess at a date, and tried 1874 based on her being around 20, and plus or minus 2 years. I found Mary Moore in Mansfield, 1875 4th quarter. I clicked on the page number and found 2 women, including Mary, and the names of two men. One of the men would be her husband. I went back to Ancestry and searched for each of the men in the 1881 census. I found them both, and Charles Hayes was the one with a wife named Mary of the correct age. I then found them in the 1901 and 1911 census records.

To confirm my finding, I sent for the marriage certificate from the GRO, using the details I had found in freeBMD.org.uk. The certificate arrived a few days later and it had Charles Hayes marrying Mary Moore, whose father was John Miller. BINGO!!

Having updated the information in my family tree, I now need to go through the census records from 1861 to 1911 and add in her children and research more details for Charles Hayes in Ancestry.



One of the children, Charles, was on a separate page having been born and died in 1862.



Mary is one of these girls.