

Find the Lady



The family bible of my Great-great grandfather has a Family Record page. It records the birth details of 14 children, plus one who died at six months old. Henry was my great grandfather but I knew very little about the others. Going through the list I reached Sarah, about whom I knew nothing except her birth date.

I decided to try to find her marriage. As most of the siblings married in Mansfield, I thought that I would look for her in www.Freebmd.org.uk in Mansfield. Born in 1859 I looked for weddings in around 1879 to 89. I found Sarah Miller, married in Mansfield in 1885. See the result below.

So, the next problem was to determine which was her husband. I decided to look for census records in Ancestry.co.uk.

Surname	First name(s)	District	Vol	Page		
Marriages Jun 1885 (>99%)						
MILLER	Sarah	Mansfield	7b	137	info	Gr
NOWELL	John	Mansfield	7b	137	info	Gr
Pickard	Walter	Mansfield	7b	137	info	Gr
Wilson	Rebecca	Mansfield	7b	137	info	Gr

In the 1891 Census I found John Nowell and his wife, Sarah. Also in that census I could see that Walter Pickard married Rebecca Wilson.

Feeling confident, I sent for the marriage certificate using the General Records Office, www.gro.gov.uk. Much to my chagrin, when it arrived, I saw that Sarah's father's name was Benjamin when my Sarah's father was John. Oh calamity.

As an aside, while waiting for the certificate, I was searching the British Newspaper Archive, having a subscription, for details of my grandfather and came across a report of the funeral of my Great-Great-Grandmother, Ann Miller. It contained details of all the messages from her children. There I found a message from Sarah and Walter. So I now know that Sarah married a Walter.

Back to FreeBMD.org where I found a marriage of Sarah Miller to a Walter, but in Nottingham. See below.

Surname	First name(s)	District	Vol	Page		
Marriages Jun 1884 (>99%)						
Felstead	Jane Maria	Nottingham	7b	602	info	Gr
MARSHALL	Walter Vernon	Nottingham	7b	602	info	Gr
MILLER	Sarah	Nottingham	7b	602	info	Gr
Oldknow	Thomas	Nottingham	7b	602	info	Gr

Now I am brimming with confidence and I sent for the certificate of marriage of Sarah Miller to Walter Vernon Marshall. When it arrived, I could see that her father was John. So on to Ancestry and the Census records, searching for Walter Vernon Marshall. In 1891 they are in Nottingham and he is an Upholsterer, which matches his occupation

on the marriage certificate. A clincher is that Sydney Miller, grocery assistant, is a boarder and he is Sarah's brother. In 1901, still in Nottingham, Walter is now a Furniture Dealer and they have 3 children, Grace, Samuel and Ellison. In 1911 Walter is a Furniture Dealer and Sarah "Assists in the business". It shows her birth as "Pleasley Hill" which confirms, definitively, that I have the right

Sarah. The children are not there but there is a Sidney Simpson, nephew and Grocery Shop Manager staying with them. I have yet to research that Sidney.

On Monday 9 April, 1928, in the Nottingham evening post, there is an announcement of the funeral of Walter Marshall, having died after an operation on 6 April. I found from FreeBMD that Sarah died in 1931, and in the Nottingham Evening Post of the 3 January 1931 is the announcement of her death on January 1st 1931.

So, thanks to The British Newspaper archive, and with the help of www.freebmd.org.uk and www.ancestry.co.uk I have the life story of Sarah Miller, my Great-great-aunt.

I have now moved on to Ann Miller, born on 12 September 1866, only having her birth date. She is proving easier as the funeral report mentions Annie, John and Mabel, so I know straight away that she had a daughter Mabel.

Sid Miller
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