PEACOCK, Joseph

Born c.1808, Bedford, Bedfordshire, England. Died 20.12.1871, Pietermaritzburg, Natal.

Labourer

1830.04.06 Of Bedford, England, where he married Martha Wickins of the same place on or about 6.04.1830. (MSC 75/1872)

1830.04.06 Married at St Paul’s church, Bedford. (MSC 448-9/1879)

1849.03.09 Arrived on the *Elizabeth Jane* , a 97-ton schooner, Capt W. Messum. (*NW* 16.03.49)

1852.07.00 He and Robert Leeming\* took over Mrs Singer’s lease of the brickyard. (*NW* 23.07.52)

1853.03.28 Mrs Peacock arrived on the *Lady of the Lake* from London, intermediate class, with a son and daughter. (*NW* 01.04.53)

1853.07.00 Dau, Mary, a minor, m. Thomas Ashley.\* (R.W. Pmb.)

1853.07.04 Dau. Mary m. Thomas Ashley. Witnesses were Joseph Peacock (signed with an x) and John Peters\*. (MSCE 4/100)

1854.05.30 Of Erf 8 Loop St, Pmb., labourer and occupier. (NGG 30.05.54)

1854.08.08 A labourer of Erf 8 Loop St, Pmb., renter. (NGG 08.08.54)

1855.10.26 Occupied property [Erf 8] in Loop St belonging to G. Bakewell\* (*NW* 26.10.55).

1856.04.00 They [the Peacocks] lived next house above our house [i.e. home of J.P. Hathorn\*] just where the Catholic Bishop’s new house [now] is. (Kenneth Howard Hathorn 15.12.1923 in HFH p. 69)+

1856*c*.. Lived in Pmb. [on Erf 8 Loop St] with wife and had a son George. (H.P. Part 2).

1858.10.13 Owned and occupied Erf 41, Longmarket St, Pmb. (*NW* 13.10.58)

1858.10.15 Occupied Corporation Townlands. (*NW* 15.10.58)

1862.07.17 Son George Peacock and Arsulla C[hambers] Doig [dau of J.D. Doig\*] were m. by the Revd Campbell. Both of Pmb. (*NW* 01.08.62)

1868.10.06 Martha Peacock applied for a separation order from her husband on grounds of cruelty and ill-treatment. Because of his habitual drunkenness, violence and prodigality, living with him had become intolerable. She was illiterate. Her son George was appointed her *curator ad litem*. (RSC I/5/73 No. 1257)

1868.10.08 Martha Peacock, nurse of Pmb., made affidavit that because of the cruelty and ill-treatment of her husband Joseph Peacock life with him has become intolerable. For many years she has earned her own livelihood. She is now 63 years old and her husband has become a wild prodigal and wastes not only his own small means on drink but threatens to dissipate to the last penny whatever she has. She has applied for her son George Peacock to be made her *curator ad litem* to sue her husband for separation. Signed with x. (RSC I/8/34 No. 3175)

1868.10.21 Martha Peacock assisted by her son George Peacock who had been appointed her *curator ad litem* sued her husband Joseph Peacock for divorce on grounds of cruelty and ill-treatment resulting from his habitual drunkenness and prodigality. (RSC IV/23/2 No.1868/9)

1868.10.21 By a document executed before Arthur Walker\* Peacock and his wife agreed to live apart and to separate from community of goods. (MSC 75/1872)

1868.10.23 Summons against Joseph Peacock withdrawn (RSC I/5/73 No. 1257)

1870.03.23 Martha Peacock (née Wickens [*sic*]) of Longmarket St, Pmb., and formerly of Bedford, Bedfordshire, made a will. She and Joseph Peacock were living apart (MSC 448-9/1879)

1870.10.12 Joseph Peacock made a will. He signed with an x. His son is George. (MSC 75/1872)

1871.12.00 Joseph Peacock d. aged 63. (Tomb CRC)

1871.12.00 Died at Grey’s Hospital aged 63, a labourer. (PGRD)

1871.12.20 Died at Pmb. (MSC 75/1872)

1872.10.00 Joseph Peacock had a share in a venture at the Diamond Fields. (RSC I/8/70 No. 6516)

1875.07.27 Martha Annie Watson b. Ashley wife of Henry John Watson of Kimberley, grandchild of Joseph Peacock, applied for her inheritance under his will dated 12.10.1870. Joseph d. 20.12.1870 [*sic*]. Referred to Master. (RSC I/8/62 No. 5714)

1875.07.29 Martha Peacock made a codicil to her will. She was a widow living in Bedford and was illiterate. (MSC 448-9/1879)

1875.11.29 Master’s report on Martha Annie Watson’s application for her inheritance. Joseph Peacock d. 20.12.1871. His will is dated 12.10.1870. Son George an executor with J.W. Turnbull. Estate left in trust for grandchildren – Martha Jane Peacock, William George Peacock, Margaret Mary Peacock, Martha Annie Ashley, Elizabeth Mary Ashley, George Patrick [*sic*] Ashley, Alfred Ernest Ashley and Joseph Leo Ashley. George Peacock went to the Diamond Fields in April 1872 and has been there ever since. Joseph Peacock’s widow is in England and has been for some time. Recommends the appointment of an executor in Pmb. J.A. Runciman appointed. (RSC I/8/63 No. 5865)

1876.03.19 Wife Martha d. at Bedford, England, late of Natal. (*NW* 05.05.76). Martha Peacock d. Bedford, England. (RSC IV/2/4 No. 1)

1876.06.28 Martha Peacock’s will and codicil proved in London. (MSC 448-9/1879)

1877 By this date all of Joseph Peacock’s Peacock grandchildren were in Griqualand West. (MSCE 4/34)

1877.05.31 In the Master’s report on Joseph Peacock’s testate estate it is shown that one of his executors refused to act and the other is dead. The Master holds £108.4.4., the proceeds of a venture at the diamond fields in which Joseph Peacock had a share. There are eight heirs. The widow is dead. (RSC I/8/70 No. 6516)

1879.11.06 John Baxter acting as executor of Martha Peacock formerly of Pmb., lately of Bedford, England, declared that she had d. on 19.03.76 and the co-executor of her estate George Peacock had d. in 1870 [*sic*]. Gave Power of Attorney to William Frederick Farm, gent., of Philpot Lane, London, to recover the balance of her estate in England from English executor John Curtis, coal merchant of Bedford. Witnessed by Edward M. Greene, solicitor Pmb. and Arthur J. Page, clerk. (RSC IV/2/4 No. 1)

1881.08.00 Date of first and final accounts in estate of Martha Peacock. She had lived in Pmb. but was latterly of Bedford. She had grandchildren with surnames Ashley and Peacock. One girl m. a Watson and another a Day. (MSCE 3/44)

CHILDREN

**George** (Born---------?Bedford, England. Died 06.10.1876. Kimberley)

1853.03.28 Arrived on the *Lady of the Lake* from London with mother and sister, intermediate lass. (*NW* 01.04.53)

1856.04.00 “In April 1856 we started with two wagons from Thompson’s house for *Howard Hill*. We had a white man – a youth, George Peacock….. out-spanned the wagons side by side. Our wagons on the left and the luggage wagon and George Peacock on the right. The unprecedented flood of April 1856 then came down upon us. It rained without interruption for eleven days and eleven nights….. It was on this trek that George Peacock yelled at the oxen ‘Yak fort ye skamkort trek’ and my mother rebuked him and said she would not have the oxen spoken to in Hottentot Dutch….. Ferg [brother of K.H.H.] and I and Kate [Tarboton] used to walk to Byrne Town… to get butter at her mother’s… It must have been about five miles at least. It was on our return journey one day that we were caught in a dreadful snowstorm. When we got to the house Kate and Ferg got over a sort of barrier at the gateway, but I stood there not able to make the effort and George Peacock rushed out and carried me in.” [For fuller details see attached scans.] (K.H.H 15.12.1923 in HFH pp 69-70).

1858.12.08 In a statement George Peacock says he lives with Mr Barnes [Barns, R.J\*] in Pietermaritz St. About three years prior to this he entered the service of Mr Hathorn [J.P. Hathorn] and went with him to his farm adjoining Mr Meyer, living in the same house [as Mr Hathorn] and eating with him. He left his service about a year ago. (AGO I/4/2 p. 690)

1862.07.00 A butcher, he m. Arsulla C[hambers] Doig [dau. of J.D. Doig. (R. St J. Pmb.)

1862.07.17 Peacock – Doig, George to Ursulla C. on 17.07.62 by Revd Campbell, both of Pmb. (*NCPA Extra* 01.08.62). George Peacock and Ursulla C. Doig m. by the Revd Campbell. Both of Pmb. (*NW* 01.08.62)

1863.05.04 Four Ashley children vaccinated. Account excused. Later Peacock, the butcher, answered. (Dr Aldridge’s ledger p. 592)

1863.10.08 Mr G. Peacock first visit. (Dr Aldridge’s ledger p. 859)

1866.02.07 Peacock and McFie have opened a branch butchering establishment at7 Loop St, lately occupied by Joseph Dearlove\*. [Previously owned by R.J. Barns who in 1870 entered into partnership with McFie trading as Barns & McFie. (SO’BS)].

 (*T of N* 17.02.66)

1866.07.21 Enoch Warwick is employed in Peacock & McFie’s butcher’s shop. (*T of N* 21.07.66)

1866 end Peacock & McFie (Successors to R.J. Barns) butchers, 25 Pietermaritz St. and 7 Longmarket St. (DNA 1867. Advert)

1867.04.20 Mr G. Peacock – confinement. Master Doig and Ashley’s children seem to be with them. (Dr Aldridge’s ledger p. 859)

1867 end Peacock & McFie (Successors to R.J. Barns) butchers, 25 Pietermaritz St and 7 Longmarket St. (DNA 1868. Advert)

1868.10.21 Appointed Martha Peacock’s *curator ad litem*. (RSC IV/23/2 No. 1868/9)

1868 end Peacock & McFie (Successors to R.J. Barns) butchers, 25 Pietermaritz St and 7 Longmarket St. (DNA 1869. Advert)

1869 end George Peacock (Late Peacock & McFie) butcher, 25 Church St, facing Commercial Rd. (DNA 1870)

1870 end Geo Peacock (Late Peacock & McFie) butcher 71 and 26 Burger St. (DNA 1871)

1872.03.30 Affidavit made at Pmb. Has lately been a butcher in Pmb. in extensive business. Has closed the business and is going to the diamond fields. His clerk and cashier in his business was Mr Elston who has already left for the diamond fields. (RSC I/8/47 No. 4522)

1872.04.00 Went to the diamond fields and has been there ever since. (RSC I/8/63 No. 5865)

1876.08.01 Died. Death certificate dated 20.09.80, Kimberley, certifies that George Peacock d.on 01.08.76 from dysentery. Sworn before a JP of Kimberley. (RSC IV/2/4 No. 30)

1876.10.06 Of the diamond fields, butcher, d. at Kimberley. (MSCE 5/149)

1877 By this date all of Joseph Peacock’s Peacock grandchildren were living in Griqualand West. (MSCE 4/34)

1881.11.09 In intestate estate of George Peacock of the diamond fields, the Executor Dative applied for leave to sell property, Rem. of Erf 41 Longmarket St. The house on it is falling into decay and requires immediate repairs which would cost about £60 or £70. Referred to Master 10.11.81. (RSC I//8/91 No. 8562)

1882.06.06 In the Master’s report on the intestate estate of George Peacock it is shown that the house and stables on Erf 41 Longmarket St which belong to the estate are in a state of disrepair and the verandah and about 6ft of the house project beyond the line of the street. The Master is in favour of the sale of the property. The widow of George Peacock has remarried and lives at the diamond fields. Their children are Martha Jane, married; William George b. 20.04.67; Margaret Mary b. 08.04.69; Arthur Moss b. 07.01.76. Report confirmed 06.06.82. (RSC I/8/95 No. 8903)

1883.08.00 Widow Arsulla, at DuToit’s Pan and now wife of Alic Robert Angus, stated her willingness at Peacock’s immovable property being sold. (MSCE 5/149)

**Mary** (Born 1834c, Bedford, England. Still alive 22.02.1876)

1853.03.28 Arrived on the *Lady of the Lake* from London with mother and brother, intermediate class. (*NW* 01.04.53)

1853.07.00 A minor she m. Thomas Ashley, a butcher. Witnesses were Joseph Peacock (signed with x) and John Peters. Father consented. Married in the residence of Joseph Peacock. (R.W. Pmb.)

1853.07.04 Married Thomas Ashley. Witnesses were Joseph Peacock (illit.) and John Peters (MSCE 4//100)

1862.09.05 Ashley, Mr Thomas, Church St, nurse Peacock’s dau., first visit. (Dr Aldridge’s ledger p.592)

1863.05.04 Four Ashley children vaccinated. Alfred 13mths, George 4 ½yrs, Lizzie 7½yrs and Martha 9yrs. Account excused. Later Peacock, the butcher, answered. (Dr Aldridge’s ledger p.592)

1866.06.21 A Supreme Court order was given for Thomas Ashley’s detention as “a dangerous lunatic”. (RSC I/8/22 No. 2015)

1866.07.26 Supreme Court case of Thomas Ashley. Visit prison Pmb. [This refers to Dr Aldridge visiting Thomas Ashley after his being committed. There was no asylum in Maritzburg at that time and those committed were held in the local goal. (SO’BS)]. Dr Aldridge’s ledger p. 300)

1866.07.26 Mary Ashley and her brother George Peacock were appointed curators of Thomas Ashley’s person and property. (RSC I/8/22 No. 2058)

1867.04.20 Master Doig and Ashley’s children seem to be with the George Peacocks. (Dr Aldridge’s ledger p. 859)

1870.06.03 Thomas Ashley of Pmb, formerly a transport rider, d. in the Lunatic Asylum, Pmb., aged 47, leaving 5 children all minors – Martha Hannah, Elizabeth Mary, George Peacock. Alfred Ernest and Joseph Leo. (MSCE 4/100)

1870.08.00 Mary, widow Ashley, m. Johnson Pollard, farmer, both of *Aasvogel’s Krans* [on the Umgeni River, east of Maritzburg. (SOB’S)]. (R.W. Pmb.)

1872.12.23 Mary, 38, widow Pollard and Alexander Munroe, 32, b. Morayshire took out special licence to marry. She was b. in Bedford. (CSO 2282)

1874.00.00 Ashley’s portions of Erfs 39 and 40 Church St, Pmb, which had been mortgaged well beyond their value, were sold by public auction for £195, which sum was paid to the mortgagee. (RSC I/8/57 No. 5306)

1876.02.22 From Elizabeth Ashley’s application to marry John Day one finds that her mother was still alive and m. to Alexander Munroe. (RSC I/8/64 No. 5966)

NOTES

\*After a surname indicates that person as the head of a family and therefore qualified for an

entry in Shelagh Spencer’s biographical register.

+Pietermaritzburg was laid out in a grid system. As regards the long streets such as Burger,

Loop, Longmarket, Church and more, which succeeded each other in that order, a Loop St Erf

ran through to Longmarket St and a Longmarket St Erf ran through to Church St etc. Thus Erf 8

Loop St, which had been divided into four equal parts, could have Mr Bakewell (the owner)

living on the Loop St half of the Erf with Mr Hathorn and Mr Peacock each living on a

Longmarket St quarter.

SOURCES

**Books and Directories**

DNA – *Natal Almanac, Directory and Yearly Register*. P. Davis & Sons: Pietermaritzburg.

1863–1905.

HFH – Young, Amy Helen. *Hathorn Family History*. Amy H. Young: Pietermaritzburg, 1967.

**Cemeteries**

Tomb CRC – Commercial Road Cemetery, Pieternaritzburg. Grave stone.

**Church Registers**

R.St J. Pmb. – Register St John’s Presbyterian Church, Pietermaritzburg.

R. W. Pmb – Register Wesleyan Church, Pietermaritzburg.

**Manuscript Sources**

Dr Aldridge’s Ledger – Aldridge, C.M., Dr

H.P. Part 2 – Hathorn Papers.

**Newspapers**

*NCPA.Extra* – *Natal Courier and Pietermaritzburg Advertiser. Extra.*

*T of N – Times of Natal.*

*NW – The Natal Witness.*

**Personal Communication**

SO’BS – Shelagh O’Byrne Spencer.

**Unpublished official Papers**

AGO –Attorney General’s Office.

CSO – Colonial Secretaries Office.

MSC – Master of the Supreme Court. Wills.

MSCE – Master of the Supreme Court. Estates.

NGG – Natal Government Register.

PGRD – Pietermaritzburg Government Register. Deaths.

RSC – Registrar of the Supreme Court.

2 393 words