

WILLIAM RENDLE (1841-1922)
BY RICHARD HORN

William Henry Rendle was baptised at the age of six weeks at the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel in Newton Abbot Devon on the 10th September 1841. He was born in Kingsteignton which lies at the head of the Teign Estuary and is said to be one of the largest villages in the country. His father's name is given as Robert on the baptismal record and the name of his mother is given as Sarah. However, the 1841 census shows Sarah (born 1811) living with a George Rendle (born 1814) together with three children aged six, four and two.

By the 1851 census however, Sarah, is married to a George Ruby (born 1791) and living in Abbotskerswell. A William Rendle aged nine is shown as living with them and his place of birth is given as Kingsteignton. His three older siblings from Sarah's presumed first marriage are not shown but a younger sister Mary Rendle (born 1846) is, together with a half-brother Samuel Rendle Ruby (born 1850). George Ruby's occupation is given as agricultural Labourer.

The next census record for this pensioner that I have been able to locate is for 1871. This shows that William now aged twenty-nine is employed as a Post Office clerk and is living at 43 Sanford St Exeter, with a Mary Ann Clayton Rendle his wife, who is recorded as having been born in the city in 1843. They have an older daughter Amy born 1865, a son William H born 1867 and a younger daughter Mary Louisa born 1870.

At the time of the 1881 census there have been additions to the family: Henry P (born 1873), John (born 1877) and Emiline (born 1879). The oldest daughter Amy and the oldest son William are both shown to be employed as pupil teachers at the ages of sixteen and fourteen respectively. The family are now living at 85 Little Clifton Street Exeter.

The family have moved yet again at the time of the 1891 census to 24 Unsor Road and Amy is recorded now as being a school teacher. Only two other children are shown, the youngest John and Emeline now aged fourteen and twelve respectively and recorded as still being scholars. Two years later there is a death record for William's wife Mary Ann in the period October-December 1893 listed as being in the district of St Thomas at the age of fifty-one.

The 1901 Census shows that William now aged fifty-nine had been promoted to the position of assistant superintendent and that he had remarried to an Augusta M Rendle (aged forty-three), who had been born in Newport Monmouthshire. They lived at 74 Blackboy Road Exeter.

William carried on living until the age of eighty. His death certificate shows that he was living at 77 Priory Road Exeter when he died on the 15th February 1922. As his last census record I could locate was for 1901, we do not know who he was living with at the time but the death was recorded by his nephew Arthur H Folley. It seems likely that his second wife Augusta M was living there as she lived on to the age of eighty-five as there is a death record for her for the period July-September 1943. She remained in Exeter.

The cause of William's death is given as carcinoma of the colon and peritoneum. Given his extreme age for the time and the limited range of medical options for this condition, it seems likely that he would have received palliative care at home. If she was still living with him, Augusta would have been aged sixty-four, so may well have helped to nurse him.

Fact Sheet: William Rendle

Pensioner Details
Pensioner name: William Henry Rendle
Person ID: DV1015
Your name: Richard Horn
U3A group: Islington
Part One: Birth and Family
1: When and where was your pensioner born?
He was born in August 1841 in Kinsteignton Devon and baptised at the Wesleyan Chapel Newton Abbot on the 10th September.
2: Who were your pensioners' parents? Record any details you can find out about them here (e.g. occupation, religious affiliation, whether they could read or write)
His father was Robert Rendle and his mother was named Sarah, born (1811?). They were Wesleyans.
3: Did your pensioner have any siblings? What were their names, and how old were they in relation to your pensioner? Use this space to record anything else you have found out about them (e.g. occupation)
The 1851 census shows a Sarah Ruby born 1811 married to a George Ruby agricultural labourer born 1791. The children living with them include a William Rendell born in Kinsteignton 1841, Samuel Rendell Ruby born Abbotskerswell 1850 and Mary Rendell born 1846 in Kinsteignton. I cannot find a death record or census record for a Robert Rendle or Rendell, which was the name of William's father on his birth record..
Part Two: Marriage and children
1: Did your pensioner marry? What was their spouse's name, and when and where did they marry them? Use this space to record any extra details you can find out about their spouse (e.g. when/where they were born, their occupation)
I can't find a marriage record for this pensioner but the 1871 census shows a William H Rendle born 1842 in Kinsteignton a postal clerk married to a Mary Ann Clayton Rendle born 1843 in Exeter. They were living at 43 Sandford St Exeter and were also recorded as living there in the 1881 census. The 1901 census shows that the pensioner had remarried to an Augusta M Rendle born 1858 in Newport, Monmouthshire. There is a death record for a Mary Ann C Rendle in the district of St Thomas Devon in the period Oct-Dec 1893.
2: Did your pensioner have any children? What were their names, and when they were born? Use this space to record any extra details you can find out about them (e.g. occupation, where they lived later in life)

Amy Horatio Rendle born 1865, William H Rendle born 1867 and Mary Louisa Rendle born 1870. The 1881 census records the family as living at 85 Little Clifton St, Exeter. It also records a Henry P Rendle born 1873, a John Rendle born 1877 and a Emeline Rendle born 1879. At this time William H Rendle junior and Amy H Rendle are both recorded as pupil teachers. In the 1891 census Amy is shown as a school teacher, the other children still living with their parents are John and Emeline.

Part Three: Work

1: What occupation was your pensioner recorded as doing in census years? Please make sure to state clearly which year you are referring to

In the 1871 census he is shown as being a post office clerk. In the 1881 census he is shown as a C.S.M. clerk ? In 1891 as a post office clerk and finally in 1901 as an Assistant Superintendent Post Office, living at 74 Blackboy Road Exeter.

2: What occupations were people living with your pensioner (e.g. spouse, children, boarders) doing in the census years? Please make sure to state clearly which year you are referring to

In the 1881 census William H Rendle junior and Amy H Rendle are both recorded as pupil teachers. In the 1891 census Amy is shown as a school teacher.

Part Four: Anything Else

Please use this space to record anything else you have found out about your pensioner

Part Five: Your Sources

Please use this space to record the sources you have used

William Rendle Birth Record: Devon Heritage Centre, Devon Baptisms, Archive ref 1517D/1, Entry no 28.
William Rendle Census Record Household Devon 1901: RG13/2041/F? (Genealogist)
William Rendle Census Record Household Devon 1891: RG12/1688/F? (Genealogist)
William Rendle Census Record Household Devon 1881: RG11/2149/F? (Genealogist)
William Rendle Census Record Household Devon 1871: RG10/2061/F? (Genealogist)
William Rendle Census Record Household Devon 1851: HO107/1871/F? [Pages 142-143] (Genealogist)
Death Record for Mary Ann C Rendle in the District of St Thomas Devon: Page 0036 Vol 5B (Genealogist)