
John LEATHERDAY (c. 1833-c. 1892)

A soldier in the Crimea.

John LEATHERDAY, son of John LEATHERDAY (c. 1805-c. 1866) and Esther EDWARDS (c. 1816-c. 1898), was born circa 1833 in Dickleburgh, Norfolk. He was baptised on 10 March 1833 in Dickleburgh, the ceremony was conducted by Rev. Joseph HADDOCK, curate - John's father a labourer¹

On 6 Jun 1841, (the 1841 Census), he was living at The Moor in Dickleburgh with Langmere, Norfolk - 8, living with parents John (35, agricultural labourer) and Esther (25), and brothers Robert (4) and William (3 mos)>²

John appeared in the census in 1851 at The Street in Dickleburgh - 18, agricultural labourer, living with parents John (46, coal merchants labourer) and Esther (35), and siblings Robert (14, errand boy), Francis (8, scholar), Mary Ann (5, scholar), William (3) and James (1)³

On 19 November 1852 he enrolled as a volunteer in the East Norfolk Regiment of Militia. On 19 November 1852 he was released from the Militia engagement conditional on his enlisting into the Rifle Brigade. He was attested into the military on 29 May 1854 at Diss, Norfolk - 2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade, Private 4223. On 29 September 1856 he was removed from the ranks, reason: "The reduction in the army, being not likely to become efficient". Character given as: "his character is very good, and that he is not in possession of any good conduct badges". Total service 2 years 125 days.

John was discharged on 9 December 1856 and the Discharge Report stated:

"Disability - diseased chest and deformed feet. Brought forward for reduction of the Army being not likely to become efficient and sent to Chatham because his health has been impaired by service." (Medical Report)

"After examination of Pte. John Leatherday, I am of the opinion that he is unfit for further service having slight malformation of the chest." (Principal Medical Officer)

At the time of the 1861 Census, John was living at The Street in Dickleburgh - 28, agricultural labourer, lodging in the household of James DRANE (25, agricultural labourer) and his family⁴

John appeared in the census in 1871 in Old Whittington, Derbyshire - 38, ironstone labourer, boarding in the household of Thomas BOSWORTH (35, ironstone labourer)⁵

He appeared in the census in 1881 at Bamford Street in Whittington, Derbyshire - 48, labourer, living with mother Esther (widow, 72), brother William (36, labourer), and nephew Robert TEEK (4)⁶

He appeared in the census in 1891 at Brick Yard Row in Whittington - 56, labourer, living with mother Esther (widow, 80) and brother William (41, labourer)⁷

John died circa 1892.⁸ John was buried on 1 May 1892 in Newbold cum Dunston, Derbyshire - age 57.⁹

Notes:

John's discharge report also noted that he spent 9 months in the Nr. East.

The 2nd Battalion Rifle Brigade (The Prince Consort's Own), Nominal Roll of Drafts sent from England entitled to the medal of the Crimea, names John, 4223, as having been there sometime in 1854-55.

Sources

1. *PR - Baptism*. Dickleburgh, Norfolk. Cit. Date: 10 March 1833.
2. *1841 Census*. HO107 Piece 758 Folio 20 Page 6 Schedule 284. Cit. Date: 1841.
3. *1851 Census*. HO107 Piece 1821 Folio 227 Page 18 Schedule 58. Cit. Date: 1851.
4. *1861 Census*. RG09 Piece 1232 Folio 28 Page 15 Schedule 82. Cit. Date: 1861.
5. *1871 Census*. RG10 Piece 3615 Folio 136 Page 61 Schedule 341. Cit. Date: 1871.
6. *1881 Census*. RG11 Piece 3436 Folio 45 Page 86 Schedule 418. Cit. Date: 1881.
7. *1891 Census*. RG12 Piece 2765 Folio 86 Page 4 Schedule 24. Cit. Date: 1891.
8. *CR Death*. 1892 Q2 Chesterfield Derbyshire Vol 7B Page 394. Cit. Date: Q2 1892.
9. *PR - Burial*. Newbold cum Dunston, Derbyshire. Cit. Date: 1 May 1892.