

Rose Goward (nee Learner)

(b.1796, d.1881)

1st October, 2019

Megan Dennis

Rose Learner (also known as Rosamond and Rosemond) was born in 1796 to Thomas Learner (1745 to 1825) and Ann Thomazine Thilithorpe (1753 to 1823) in East Dereham, Norfolk (1). She was one of six siblings. Both Thomas and Ann were illiterate, as was Rose throughout her life.

Nothing is known of her childhood. She married Godfrey Goward in East Dereham on 9th June 1822 (2), probably because of the impending birth of their first son – Godfrey Goward (1822-1829) in September 1822 (3). She went on to have three further sons and two daughters: George, 1824-1843 (3, 4), William, 1827-1901a (5, 6), Thomas, 1829-1909 (7, 8), Harriet, 1831-1858 (9, 10), Mary Ann, 1833-? (11), and Maria 1838-? (12).

The family move from East Dereham to Gressenhall at sometime between 1829 and 1831 (9), and again to Beetley between 1833 (11) and 1838 (12). In 1841 the family is listed in the census as living within Beetley Old Hall (13) – but it is more likely they were settled in a small cottage close to the Hall. In later censuses Rose is shown to be living at Punch Bowl Lane/Green/Road, Beetley (14, 15, 16), where she appears to remain until her removal to the workhouse at some point between 1871 and 1881 (17).

Rose's husband dies in 1861 (18), and she has already lost two of her sons (Godfrey aged 7 in 1829 and George aged 19 in 1843) and a daughter (Harriet aged 27 in 1858). She continues to reside independently in Punch Bowl Lane, Beetley (15).

It is unclear whether Rose received out relief at this time. She may have been supported by her two surviving sons – Thomas who continued to live in Beetley and work as an agricultural labourer and later a farm steward (19, 20, 17, 21, 22) and William who became a farmer with 31 acres in 1861 (Gravel Pit Road in Gressenhall) (23), 40 acres and one boy in 1871 (near Union House in Gressenhall) (24) and 150 acres and 7 men and two boys in 1881 (Framingham Earl, near Norwich) (25).

The date of Rose's admission into the workhouse is unknown, but may have been for health care during her final illness. She died just a few days after the 1881 census was taken (26).

Reference List

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- (11) 'Mary Ann Goward' (1833) Birth of Mary Ann Goward, Dereham, 28 April 1833. Norfolk, England, Church of England Births and Baptisms, 1813-1915. Norfolk Record Office; Norwich, Norfolk, England; Reference: PD 715/6. Available: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed 31 July 2019)
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