

Newell, Benjamin - More than Oliver Twist: Life History Summary

Birth

Full Name (as per registration record): **Benjamin Newell**

Date: March Quarter 1879

Mother's maiden name: None given

District: Mitford

County: Norfolk

Volume: 04B, Page: 288

Reference: 'Benjamin Newell' (1879). Certified entry recording birth on the Civil Registration Index, March 1879. Available: https://www.gro.gov.uk/gro/content/certificates/indexes_search.asp (Accessed 31 July 2019)

Local workhouse records

Date: 19 May 1879

Minutes: 'The Visiting Committee reported the case of Benjamin Newell an illegitimate child aged 12 weeks or thereabouts who was born with a hare lip and is now with its mother an inmate of the workhouse. Dr Vincent the Workhouse Medical Officer being of opinion that a surgical operation, if performed without delay, would be effectual, and the mother of the child having expressed her consent – It was agreed that Dr Vincent perform the operation and be paid a reasonable fee for his services, subject to the consent of the Local Government Board.'

Reference: Mitford and Launditch Workhouse Guardians Committee (1879) 'Benjamin Newell. *Minutes of the Guardians of the Mitford and Launditch Union Workhouse 19 May 1879* NRO C/GP14/25. Norfolk Record Office.

National workhouse records

Date: 20 May 1879

Correspondence: 'Benjamin Newell aged 12 weeks an illegitimate child has been born in the Workhouse with a hare lip which in the opinion of the medical officer can be effectively remedied by a surgical operation if performed without delay. The Guardians and the mother of the child are desirous that this should be done at once, and have agreed that, with your approbation, Dr Vincent should perform the operation and be paid a reasonable fee for his services. I have therefore to ask you sanction to the arrangement and to request your earliest reply (40195/79, annotated)

Reference

Newell, Benjamin (1879). *Letter to the Local Government Board requesting sanction for an operation on a hare lip in the Mitford and Launditch Union*. TNA MH12/8489/79. The National Archive. Available at: <http://www.discovery.nationalarchives.co.uk> (TBC).

Date: 4 July 1879

Correspondence: 'I am directed by the Local Government Board to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 20th May last requesting their sanction to an arrangement agreed by the Guardians of the Mitford & Launditch Union that with the approbation of the Board the Medical Officer of the Workhouse should at once perform upon an infant inmate named Benjamin Newell who has a hare lip a surgical operation for the remedy of that malformation and should be paid a reasonable fee for his services.'

I am directed to state that the Board were unable to reply at once to your letter as it was [] very carefully to consider the proposal it contains, having regard to the questions involved in it.

As regards the performance of the operation in question to which the Sanction of the Board is requested the Board have thought it right to communicate with their Inspector Durmount and he has advised them that the cure of hare lips, although [] to personal appearance is not necessary for the preservation of life. The operation is never quite without risk to life even in simple cases and the percentage of failures according to the Parochial returns is considerable he mortality if those returns are to be trusted not exceeding five per cent. Professional opinion is much divided as to the best time for the performance of the operation some surgeons advocating very early infancy, the majority preferring from the 4th to the 5th year. Looking to this representation the Board do not feel justified in expressing any opinion as to the desirability of performing the operation suggested in thie case. It seems to them that the responsibility for the child if performed by the medical officer with the consent of the child's mother must rest with that Officer and the parent.

As regards the proposal that the Medical Officer should be paid a fee for his services in that case I am directed to point out that under the General [] Order which regulates the payment of fees to the Medical Officers....?
(40195/79, annotated)

Reference: Newell, Benjamin (1879). 'Performance of Operation for hare lip and pay of feed to Workhouse Medical Officer. Draft letter to Charles Wright, Clerk to Mitford and Launditch Union Workhouse from the Local Government Board TNA MH12/8489/79. The National Archive. Available at: <http://www.discovery.nationalarchives.co.uk> (TBC).

Local workhouse records

Date: 7 July 1879

Minutes: 'The Clerk laid before the Guardians a letter dated the 14th instant from the Local Government Board declining to interfere in case of hare lip of the infant inmate of the Workhouse, Benjamin Newell upon whom the desired operation was reported to have been already successfully performed.'

Reference: Mitford and Launditch Workhouse Guardians Committee (1879) 'Benjamin Newell. *Minutes of the Guardians of the Mitford and Launditch Union Workhouse 7 July 1879* NRO C/GP14/25. Norfolk Record Office.

1881 census return

Ann	Newell	Inmate	Unm	F	39	Domestic Servant (General)	Norfolk	Great Dunham
Henry	Newell	Inmate		M	12	Scholar	Norfolk	Great Dunham
Sarah	Newell	Inmate		F	9	Scholar	Norfolk	Gressenhall
Benjamin	Newell	Inmate		M	2	Scholar	Norfolk	Gressenhall

Reference: 'Benjamin Newell' (1881) Census return for The Workhouse of Mitford and Launditch Union, Gressenhall East Dereham subdistrict, Norfolk. Public Record Office: PRO RG11/1890, folio 111, p. 4 (1881). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (accessed 31/07/2019).

Other census returns:

Date: 1891 Census Return

Benjamin	Newell	Inmate		M	12	Scholar	Norfolk	Gressenhall
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Reference: 'Benjamin Newell' (1891) Census return for The Workhouse of Mitford and Laundtich Union, Gressenhall East Dereham subdistrict, Norfolk. Public Record Office: PRO RG12/1555, folio 103, p. 5 (1891). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (accessed 31/07/2019).

Notes and comments: No sign of mother/brothers or sister

Local workhouse records

Date: 13 Mar 1893

Minutes: 'Also correspondence with Mr A. B. Matthews of Wollaston Northamptonshire proposing to take a boy from the Workhouse as apprentice.

Resolved that the master send Benjm [Benjamin] Newell of Great Dunham for a month on trial.'

Reference: Mitford and Laundtich Workhouse Guardians Committee (1893) 'Benjamin Newell. *Minutes of the Guardians of the Mitford and Laundtich Union Workhouse 13 March 1893* NRO C/GP14/34. Norfolk Record Office.

Other census returns:

Date: 1901 Census Return

Frederick M	Rice	Head	M	M	33	Boot Laster	Worker	Northants	Northampton
Leah	Rice	Wife	M	F	33			Northants	Rushden
Lucy	Rice	Daughter (adopted)		F	8			Northants	Northampton
Ben.	Newall [Newell]	Lodger	S	M	22	Boot Finisher	Worker	Norfolk	Gressenhall

Reference: 'Benjamin Newell' (1901) Census return for London Road, Wollaston Wellingboro subdistrict, Northamptonshire. Public Record Office: PRO RG13/1438, folio 164, p. 25 (1901). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (accessed 31/07/2019).

Notes and comments:

Marriage

Date: None found

Other census returns:

Date: 1911 Census Return

Thomas Vernon	Silsby	Head	28		Marrie	Boot Maker	Riveter Boot	Worker	At home	Wollaston	Northants
Benjamin	Newell	Boarder	31		Single	Boot	Finisher Boot	Worker		Gressenhall	Norfolk

Reference: 'Benjamin Newell' (1911) Census return for London Road, Wollaston Wellingboro subdistrict, Northamptonshire. Public Record Office: PRO RG14/8549, folio 12, (1911). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (accessed 31/07/2019).

Notes and comments:

Other family history sources

Date: 1939 England and Wales Register

Reginald R	Boddington	M	29 Sep 1908	S [Single]	Clicker (Boot & Shoe)
Edward	Boddington	M	28 Oct 1880	M [Married]	Laster (Boot & Shoe)
Benjamin	Newell	M	18 Sep 1875	S [Single]	Finisher (Boot & Shoe)
Ivy	Darlington-Loads	F	26 Jan 1922	M [Married]	Finisher (Boot & Shoe)

Reference: 'Benjamin Newell' (1939) 1939 England and Wales Register for 13 Albert Road, Wellingborough UD116.1 subdistrict, Northamptonshire. The National Archives: TNA RG101/6028B (1939). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (accessed 31/07/2019).

Notes and comments:

What are the jobs?

Death

Date: January Quarter 1953 (28 February 1953 – Probate record)

Birth date: abt 1879

District: Wellingborough

County: Northamptonshire

Volume: 3b, Page: 882

Reference: 'Benjamin Newell' (1879). Certified entry recording death on the Civil Registration Death Index, 1916-2007, January 1953. Available: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (Accessed 31 July 2019)

Notes and comments: See probate record

Other family history sources

Date: 1953 Probate Record

Living at: 44 Cannon-street, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire

Died: 28 February 1953

Probate record: Peterborough, 21 March 1953

To: Rebecca Ann Boddington (wife of Edward Boddington)

Effects: £682. 2s. 2d (2017 equivalent: £16,278.79 (480 days wages skilled tradesman))

Reference: 'Benjamin Newell' (1953) 1939 England and Wales Register for 13 Albert Road, Wellingborough UD116.1 subdistrict, Northamptonshire. The National Archives: TNA RG101/6028B (1939). Available at: <http://www.ancestry.co.uk> (accessed 31/07/2019).

Records from the Parish (*settlement/birth)

Please repeat date, reference and notes and comments fields for each source your person appears in.

Date: To be undertaken

Reference 'Alex Jones and Alice Roberts' (1934) *Marriage of Alex Jones and Alice Roberts, 5 May 1934. St Andrew's Church Bishopthorpe, York marriage register 1900-1950 (2009)*. Available at: <http://www.genuki.org.uk/bishopthorpe> (Accessed: 29 March 2015).

Newspapers

Date: None found

Possible 'Story' threads to develop?

Prompt	Questions to answer?	Evidence for story
Hare Lip	How did they do the operation locally 1880? How many do we have record of them doing? Was it standard practice?	Minute book/MH12
Shoemaking	Was shoemaking taught in the workhouse (dates). School Inspectors reports?	Minute book School inspector reports
In to Service	Did others go to Northamptonshire for apprenticeships? How many? Types of trade? Girls/Boys?	