

The life of Owen (1818 - 1877) and Rose Ann Polin (1823 - 1889)

(last updated March 2021)

For much of the details in this history I am indebted to the article published by Tony Proctor in his "[Parallax View](#)" blog.

Note: *Polin* is an anglicised form of the original Irish *Mac Póilín*

- 1818 Owen Polin was born in County Down, Ireland
- 1823 Birth of Rose Ann Carr, in Newry, County Down, Ireland. Rose Ann (Roseanne, Rosanna) is potentially an anglicized version of the Irish name *Róisín* (pronounced "roh-sheen").
- 1841 By this point Owen was a "traveler" living on Clare Street, Nottingham in the household of an Arthur O'Hare. Also, in that household were who appeared to be his brother and sister-in-law, Peter and Margaret, both 25 years old. Rosanna was using the surname Poland living on Parliament Street as a 24-year-old "F. S." (female servant) in the household of Thomas Bishop. Whatever the reason for her using her married name ahead of time, this information shows that they were already in Nottingham by 1841. This is important because it means they hadn't left Ireland as a result of the famine hitting Co. Down in 1845.
- 1843 Marriage of Owen and Rose Ann
- 1844 Aug 29th Son Daniel born in Nottingham
- 1847 May 1st Death of Daughter Margaret

1847 Daughter Anne born in Nottingham

Son John born in Nottingham. John died less than 2 months later on 26th April as reported in the Nottinghamshire Guardian (dated 3rd May 1849):

1849 Mar 6th *“On the same day [26th ult.], at the Horse and Chaise, on the body of John Polin, infant son of Owen Polin, of Kent-street, travelling draper. The deceased had been unwell since its birth, and on the morning of the inquest it was found dead in bed. Verdict, "Natural causes."*

1849 Apr 26th Death of Son Daniel [Note: it appears that Daniel and John both died on the same date, or within one day of each other]

1850 Apr 7th Daughter Ellen (Helen/Elenor) born in Nottingham

1851 From the 1851 census we learn that the Polin family were living in Kent St. Nottingham and that Owen’s occupation is listed as “lace dealer”.

1852 Mar 6th Son Daniel John born in Nottingham
1852 Nov 30th Death of Daniel John

1853 Apr 9th Death of Daughter Anne (aged 7 years)

1853 We have already seen that Owen was a travelling draper, but his business ran into difficulties during 1853 and he was made insolvent. From the London Gazette (6 Sept 1853):

“In the Matter of the Petition of Owen Polin, formerly of Kent-street, afterwards of Chandler's-lane, both in the town of Nottingham, Lace Dealer and Dealer in Drapery, and now in lodgings at Mr. Dickinson's, in Newcastle-street, in the said town of Nottingham, Dealer in Drapery,

NOTICE is hereby given, that the County Court of Nottinghamshire, at Nottingham, acting in the matter of this Petition, will proceed to make a Final Order thereon, at the said Court, on the 29th day of September instant, at nine o'clock in the forenoon precisely, unless cause be then and there shewn to the contrary."

From various reports it can be seen that Owen had his own business, although it floundered, and that he owned property. Combined with the fact that they had a house servant, and that Rosanna claimed her daughter Ellen was sent to "one of the best schools", then we know that the family were not poor. However, various reports (see below) demonstrate that Rosanna had a rough edge to her and had appeared in court some nine times. They would appear to have been a family intent on social climbing, although their roots were showing.

1854 Mar 8th Daughter Mary Ann Elizabeth born in Nottingham
(My grandmother!)

1856 May 24th Daughter Alice Mary born in Nottingham

From the Nottinghamshire Guardian (17 Jul 1856):

"Assaulting a Wife. — Owen Polin, 40, describing himself a traveller, living in Kent Street, was brought up by policeman No. 47, who apprehended him last night about eight o'clock, near his own house, for being disorderly and assaulting his wife.

1856 *The officer said that while on duty in St. John's Street, a person came to him and said he was wanted in Kent Street, where a man was beating his wife with the poker. He went accordingly and found on arriving at the spot that the complainant wished to go into the house and the defendant was keeping her out; and he began to beat her again in his presence. He saw nothing of a poker.*

Defendant: I had had a little drink.

The Mayor: That is no mitigating circumstance, but rather makes your case worse.

The complainant, who had a black eye, said that her husband came home in a state of intoxication, and she remonstrated with him, telling him he ought not to come home in such a state, especially when he was out of

employment. The defendant then immediately struck her. She said she never saw the poker and asserted that the blow was given with his fist. She did not, however, wish to press the charge to a conviction against him, but hoped that the circumstance of his being brought before the magistrates would act as a warning to him.

A young woman, who was present as witness, said, in answer to the bench, that she saw the defendant with a poker in his hand. He did not actually strike her with it but would have done so had she not evaded the blow and ran away. Upon missing her he slipped down and cut his head against the door.

Complainant: When he gets a little drunk he is really like a lunatic.

The Mayor: Has he beaten you before?

Complainant (with some hesitation): No, sir.

The Mayor: That is such a feeble "no," that I have much doubt whether it is so.

At the earnest request of his wife the bench said they would not convict him under the Aggravated Assaults Act but would order him to find sureties to keep the peace for three months, and pay the costs, amounting to 10s."

Rose Anne worked as a market trader handling fabrics such as lace. Although we cannot be certain that Owen was similarly involved, there is a later report about him working without a hawker's licence.

From the Nottinghamshire Guardian (13 Aug 1857):

"Breach of the Peace. — A very decently-dressed woman, named Rosanna Polin, appeared in answer to a summons charging her with having committed a breach of the peace in the Butter Market on Saturday last. It appeared that the defendant is a peripatetic [travelling] lace merchant, frequenting Nottingham market, her stock-in-trade being displayed within the circumference of an umbrella, and her announcements that she is selling real Honiton [lace] at "a penny a yard" are not only of an extremely vociferous character, but they frequently cause a crowd of people to assemble around her who do not conduct themselves in the most orderly manner in taking advantage of the "opportunity of purchasing goods at an alarming sacrifice;" and this would seem to have been the case on Saturday last. In answer to the charge, Mrs. Polin said she had sold lace in Nottingham market for the last twelve or thirteen years, and as long as other people continued to call out the wares they had for sale, she would do the same. The magistrates recommended her not to persist in that course. They did not wish to press the case, and if she would pay the

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expenses, express contrition, and promise not to offend again, they would allow the matter to drop. The clerk to the magistrates told her that she could also be proceeded against for committing an offence against the Bye Laws, which stipulated that if any party, except an auctioneer or other licensed person, shall cry goods for sale, he shall be liable to a penalty. The defendant, who did not appear to like the idea of giving up what she deemed to be her rights, ultimately complied with the conditions named, and was discharged.”

Honiton lace is a type of bobbin lace made in Honiton, Devon. Handmade lacework had a resurgence in popularity in the 19th century when Queen Victoria ordered a Honiton lace bridal dress (1840). The revival happened so quickly, and demand was so great, that a cheaper-quality lace was produced in large quantities.

From the Nottinghamshire Guardian (27 Aug 1857):

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“A decently attired young girl complained to the borough magistrates on Tuesday, about a Mrs. Rosanna Polin having found and retained 1s. 6d. of her money. Mrs. Polin has a stall in the market where she disposes of ribbons, lace, &c. It will perhaps be remembered that a short time ago she was brought before the magistrates and punished for calling attention to her commodities in rather too vociferous a manner. The complainant in the present case stated that on Saturday night she was standing at Mrs. Polin's stall, looking at some ribbons. She made no purchase, but after she had proceeded a few yards from the stall she found her money was 1s. 6d. short, and on returning she heard that Mrs. Polin had picked up 1s. 6d. from amongst the ribbons. Mrs. Polin refused to give this up when requested, asserting that it must be her own money, as she herself was three shillings short. — The girl's statement was confirmed by other witnesses. — Mrs. Polin entered into a long explanation, with a view of showing that the money she had found was really her own. — The Mayor said he had no doubt but that the girl had lost her money as she stated, and that Mrs. Polin had found it, and he therefore advised her to return the 1s. 6d., and at the same time expressed his regret that he could not make an order for some compensation to be awarded to the witnesses for their loss of time. — After some hesitation and remonstrance, the 1s. 6d. was restored to the owner.”

From the Nottinghamshire Guardian (10 Sep 1857):

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“Charge of Assault. — Mrs. Rosannah Polin, a lady lace merchant, carrying on business in Nottingham market and elsewhere, who has figured before the magistrates on one or two recent occasions, again made her appearance — bedecked in all the hues of the rainbow, her

raiment displaying a most extraordinary combination of colour; being, in fact, an "awful swell" — to answer the charge of having assaulted her neighbour, Mrs. Bridget Hughes, on Saturday the 30th ult. From the statement of the complainant, it appeared that, about one o'clock in the morning of the day named, the defendant paid a visit to her (the complainant's) house while in "a state of beer," and as she entered her husband told her to shut the door after her, instead of doing which, however, she set it wide open. Mrs. Hughes closed it, and Mrs. Polin opened it again. This performance was repeated several times: words ensued, and, as is very frequently the case, blows followed, Mrs. Polin being the aggressor. It was elicited by Mr. Cowley, jun., who appeared for the defendant, that the latter went to the complainant's house respecting a small account due to her, and that, when she was about to leave, Mrs. Hughes planted herself against the door, and prevented her. Considering both parties equally to blame, the magistrate directed the costs to be divided, and they were discharged."

1859 Aug 2nd Death of Son Thomas Daniel John

From the Nottinghamshire Guardian (1 Mar 1860):

1860

"Rosanna Polin then stepped forward and charged Mary Caffray [accused of pick-pocketing in previous paragraph] with assaulting her. She stated that she was sitting in a public-house near Midland Railway Station, when the accused came in and asked her why she (prosecutrix) had said she had been convicted of a felony, at the same time striking her a severe blow in the face, and discolouring her eye and cheek. — Mary Caffray admitted the assault, but urged as a justification that Rosanna Polin, as soon as she attempted to purchase some articles in the shop, said "That woman has been convicted of felony;" to which she replied, "Very well, and if I was, take that," at the same time striking her in the face. — The bench ordered the accused to enter into her own recognisance to keep the peace for three months."

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Son Owen born in Nottingham

1861

From the Nottinghamshire Guardian (30 May 1861):

“Owen Polin, of Nottingham, was charged by police constable Thomas Gibson with hawking without a license, at Kirkby-in-Ashfield, on the 21st inst. Fined £2 10s. and costs, or one month's imprisonment.”

According to the 1861 Census, the family were living in St. Anns Rd, Nottingham

1861 During November 1861, there was a lengthy report of a case, tried before a petty jury, of Harriett Picard stealing three pieces of net lace. Also, of Sarah Guest and Maria Guest receiving the lace, knowing that it was stolen. Rose Ann Poland was mentioned several times as offering to sell the lace.

From the Nottinghamshire Guardian (13 May 1862):

1862 *“Rosanna Poland appeared to answer the charge of having on the 30th April, unlawfully assaulted and beaten Sarah Wakefield. The parties are stall keepers in the market, and on the day in question a "row" took place between them, as to the other one taking up new ground usually occupied by the other. According to the testimony of a gardener named Lowater, who has a standing in the market, he heard and saw an altercation between the parties, during which Mrs. Poland made use of the most obscene and filthy language towards Mrs. Wakefield. — John Key, framework-knitter, also deposed to Mrs. Poland's misconduct. — Mr. Brothers, superintendent of the market, stated that Mrs. Poland's conduct had been so bad, that she had been ordered to leave the market. — The bench said she must pay expenses and find sureties to keep the peace for the next three months, or in default go to gaol.”*

1865 In 1865, Owen Polin appeared on an election poll-sheet for the Nottingham Exchange Ward. He was described as a traveller of Trent Road. This is significant because until 1867 you had to be a property owner in order to vote.

From the Nottinghamshire Guardian (30 Oct 1874):

1874 *“Extraordinary Behaviour Of a Drunken Female — Rosanna Poland was charged by PC Toon with being drunk and disorderly in Trent-street, Canal-street. It appeared that the prisoner was in a state of intoxication and was throwing glasses at the persons passing by. She used some disgusting language, shouted at the top of her voice, and said she would let them know she had come home. She also threw a chamber utensil on a gentleman passing by and flung everything she could lay hold of into the*

street. — This being her ninth appearance at the Court, she was sent to gaol for a month with hard labour.”

1877 Death of Owen

1881 Death of Daughter Ellen at age of 31 through “excess drinking”. What led to this sorry-end is well described by Tony Proctor in his [“Parallax View”](#) blog.

1889 Death of Rose Ann. Both Rose Ann and Owen were interred in Nottingham's privately-run General Cemetery, thus supporting the picture of their good finances.

Name	Role	Status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation	Place of birth
Owen	Head	Mar.	M	50	1801	Lace dealer	Co. Down, Ireland
Rosa anne	Wife	Mar.	F	28	1823		Co. Down, Ireland
Anne	Daughter		F	4	1847		Nottingham
Elenor	Daughter		F	11m	1851		Nottingham
Bridget Welch	Servant		F	20	1831	House servt	Co.Mayo, Ireland

1851 Census: Polin family. Kent Street, Nottingham.

Birth	Baptism	Given name	Father's name	Mother's name
29 Aug 1844	31 Aug 1844	Daniel	Owen Poland	Rosa Anne Carr
6 Mar 1849	8 Mar 1849	John	Owen MacPolin	Rose Ann Carr
7 Apr 1850	14 Apr 1850	Helen	Owen Polin	Rosan Carr
6 Mar 1852	14 Mar 1852	Daniel John	Owen Polin	Rose Ann Carr
8 Mar 1854	13 Mar 1854	Mary Ann Eliza	Owen Polin	Rose Carr
24 May 1856	1 Jun 1856	Alice Mary	Hugh Polin	Rose Ann Carr

Polin/Poland baptisms at Nottingham St. Barnabas.

Name	Role	Status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation	Place of birth
Owen	Head	Mar.	M	45	1816	Travelling draper	Co. Down, Ireland
Roseanna	Wife	Mar.	F	37	1824		Co. Down, Ireland
Ellen	Daughter		F	11	1850		Nottingham
Mary A.	Daughter		F	8	1853		Nottingham
Alice	Daughter		F	6	1855		Nottingham
Owen	Son		M	1	1860		Nottingham

1861: Polin family. St. Ann's Road, Nottingham.

Name	Role	Status	Sex	Age	Birth year	Occupation	Place of birth
Owen	Head	Mar.	M	53	1818	Travelling draper	Co. Down, Ireland
Rocean	Wife	Mar.	F	48	1823		Co. Down, Ireland
Mary A.	Daughter		F	15	1856		Nottingham
Alice	Daughter		F	13	1858	Cap hand	Nottingham
Owen	Son		M	11	1860	Cap hand	Nottingham

1871: Polin family. Trent Street, Nottingham.

Name	Death	Age	Sec.	Inscription
Ann Polin	9 Apr 1853	7y	06	
David John Polin	30 Nov 1852	9m	06	Son of Owen and Rose Ann POLIN
Daniel Polin	26 Apr 1849	5y	06	} Beloved children of Owen and Rose Ann POLIN
John Polin	26 Apr 1849	7w	06	

Memorial inscriptions for Polin family.

Name	Burial	Death
Rosannah Poland	18 Oct 1889	Unrecorded
Ellen Poland	19 Dec 1881	Unrecorded
Owen Polin	31 Oct 1877	Unrecorded
Thomas Daniel John Polin	7 Aug 1859	2 Aug 1859
Ann Polin	12 Apr 1853	9 Apr 1853
Daniel John Polin	5 Dec 1852	30 Nov 1852
John Polin	28 Apr 1849	25 Apr 1849
Daniel Polin	28 Apr 1849	26 Apr 1849
Margaret Polin	3 May 1847	1 May 1847

Burial register details for Polin family.